G2 with European weather



Billington on five twenty-something dramatists

The new golden age of theatre

G2 pages 4/5

Diary of an animal rights activist

Blair pledge

to buy back

Railtrack

G2 pages 10/11

Threat of new loyalist terror

towards return to viowhen loyalists warned the IRA that unless it swiftly restores the ceasefire, its attacks would be matched

The warning came as the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, arrived in the United States under increasing pres-sure from President Clinton for a restoration of the cease-fire. Mr Adams's flight coin-cided with an admission by the IRA that it bombed Lon-don's Brompton Road last Fri-

day night. Yesterday's statement from the Combined Loyalist Mili-lrish Americans at this year's tary Command, the umbrella White House reception. The unteer Force, Ulster Freedom Fighters and Red Hand Commando, said that in the month since the Docklands bombing cation" which had killed "innocent British fellow-

"These atrocities cannot be permitted to continue without a telling response from this source. We are poised and ready to strike to effect. We will give blow for blow. As in the past whatever the cost, we will gladly pay it," said the

The CLMC said now was the time to pull back from the tion we all occasionally feel, the democratic process is the only way forward." Northern Irish society was changing and would continue to

change.
"New ground is constantly ities gradually laid to rest. We see the peace process all have had hard decisions to restored, but I have to say make in the cause of peace. that the exclusion of Sinn The IRA and Sinn Fein must Fein by the British and the now choose and choose well."

ow choose and choose well." Irish governments is not lin New York President helpful." Clinton said: "The people of Northern Ireland have clearly chosen peace. They have cho-

mail group choose bloodshed and violence — and shatter their dreams."

Without mentioning the IRA, he added: "We must not allow those who have been hardened by the past to hijack the future of the children of Northern Ireland."

Mr Adams's six-day visit to Mr Adams's six-day visit to the United States began in cir-cumstances which contrast sharply with his triumphal White House encounter with President Clinton on St Pat-rick's Day last year.

His fund-raising rights have been withdrawn, blow-ing plans for a £1,000 a plate Sinn Fein dinner. Senator Ed-ward Kennedy, who has been highly supportive of Sinn Fein's peace strategy, has de-clined to meet Mr Adams, who has not been invited to join prominent Irish and Irish Americans at this year's Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, will take the place of Mr Adams, the first Unionist leader to attend the annual celebrations.

After Monday's working dinner with the Irish Govern-ment, Mr Trimble sounded mitment to the legal prepara-tions for decommissioning

weapons before the June 10 start of all-party talks. Yesterday he said: "I hope that Mr Spring [the Irish dep-uty prime minister] or whoever is not thinking of finding some way of surrentitiously assisting Sinn Fein/IRA to duck the issue of decommissioning by not having the necessary legislation in place beforehand."

At Dublin airport Mr Adams said the IRA would have to "study carefully" an over-night call by President Clin-ton for a renewal of its cease-fire. He insisted: "I want to

However, Mr Adams added that he was again going to America with "the hope that sen dialogue over division. the guns can be silenced They do not deserve to have a | forever".

Rival forces battle for control of Newbury bypass treetops



Cliffbanger . . . Rock-climber and road protester Ben Moon tries to evade a rival team of climbers contracted to clear protesters from treehouses on the route of the proposed Newbury bypass Report page 3 PHOTOGRAPH ANDREW TESTA

Rifkind walks tightrope on EU

Michael White Political Editor

HE Cabinet's attempt to unite the Conservative Party behind the anti-federalist rhetoric of its new European white paper last night faced the double threat that its bluff will be called by its own Euro-sceptics and by Britain's European Union

partners.
After the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, intro-duced the white paper in the Commons, former cabinet ministers John Redwood Norman Lamont and Jonathan Aitken, made plain that its emphatic hostility to a "European super-state" could be an historic turning point stand firm at the inter-government conference (IGC) which opens in Turin in two weeks time.

The white paper said the Government will fight for strong curbs on the European Court of Justice and against an increased role for the European Parliament. It also wants to change farming and fisheries policies, prevent any watering down of the national veto and keep Britain's optout from the social chapter.

to strong curbs on the

to expension of qualified majority voting (QMV).

yes for the EU's big four states, including Britain.

tives were effectively paralysed by their internal divisions and "trying to please everyone". Mr Rifkind — a Labour and Liberal Demo-crats claimed the Conserva-late convert to the sceptical tralised, federal Europe," he

Austin ken later praised some "good Euro-sceptical themes" but warned that if ministers failed, or a Blair government gave in, "this House would have to consider the option for withdrawal". Mr Lamont

was almost as apocalyptic.
The tone of welcoming mence from hard-core Tory scepties was given dramatic focus yesterday by the provisional udement - hours before Mr Rifkind spoke — from the ad-vocate general of the European bourg that Britain must abide by the European Commision's long disputed working time directive which imposes a 48-hour working week.

The snap verdict of jubilant British unions and Labour MPs that — if endorsed by the full court — it might prove the kiss of death for the social chapter opt-out was endorsed by Tory arch-sceptics like Sir Teddy Taylor. John Redwood accused the court of "threatening our veto of the social chapter. The UK parliament should immediately assert its rights" over the court - as Germany's constitutional court had done. Coming in the wake of the court defeat Turn to page 2, column 6

Paper 'avolds key issues,' page 5; Leader comment,

tisation right up to polling day," said one source. for nearly six months to come ONY BLAIR will per-sonally commit Labour to renational-ising Railtrack by setup with a cast-iron buy-back formula for Railtrack — which two years ago took con-trol of British Rail's track, signalling and stations. The ting out detailed plans within the next 10 days to take the company back into public

ownership.
In a bid to end months of The party's rail policy team, headed by Mr Prescott, damaging speculation about the party's plans. Mr Blair will go much further than his previous public statements aiming to restore "a publicly owned, publicly accountable railway". He will spell out the terms of the buy-back for the

first time. Labour's hand has been forced because by law it must detail its plans in the financial sale prospectus being prety's £2 billion flotation in

Mr Blair's personal intervention is also being seen as an attempt to pull together his warring party, following an increasingly public wran-gle over how it will satisfy voters and trade unions on renationalisation at minimal cost to the public purse. Mem-bers of his transport team, headed by Clare Short, shadow transport secretary. have been at odds over the technical issue of what mech-

anism should be used to en-sure the buy-back. Brian Wilson, Miss Short's deputy, has sided with John Prescott, Labour's deputy preference shares to Rail- hands if and when it wins track investors in exchange for their holdings, but it is understood that this has been

dropped. Senior Labour sources confirmed yesterday that Mr Blair would use a keynote speech in the next 10 days to reiterate his party's opposi-tion to privatisation, while

clear that we will fight priva- | Board.

Labour has been battling flotation will be by far the higgest single element of the Government's rail sell-off.

has now agreed the statement that will be included in the prospectus being put together by the Government's financial advisers in consultation with the City. Labour believes the state-

ment will satisfy its commitment to ensuring that Rail-track continues to be publicly owned and publicly accountable, without swallowing up vast amounts of taxpayers' money, and will make pro-spective institutional and private investors think twice be fore putting their money into the company.

There has never been any question of a full buy-back of Railtrack, which has been costed at around £5 billion.

able criticism for dragging its feet over its plans for Ralltrack, particularly as the pub-lic's hostility to rail privatisa-tion is growing rather than falling away. The party was preparing a statement last autum, but shadow cabined changes were said to have de-

layed it. Labour has said any paspower will be allowed to run for the duration of their li-cences, although they will be offered the chance to negotiate an early "get out". All further franchising will

be halted, while more straightforward "trade sales", including the freight compa-nies, would be left in private setting out the options open to a Labour government which will be formally set out in the prospectus as a deterrent to investors.

Hes, would be left in private sector hands. The Government which ment's Office of Passenger Rail Franchising will be scrapped and all direct control of the railways will revert "The speech will make it to the British Railways

Bringing up baby — at a cost of £20,000 for the first five years

£20,000 bringing up a child to the age of five, according to a consumer survey published yesterday.

Angella Johnson

will spend £50,000 on their first-born even before the youngster starts school, says the report. What Price A Child. And indirect costs such as childcare can add a found that equipment for further £18,000.

tion to contractions" on items such as extra food and maternity wear.
"Having a child could be

the most expensive decision | sive and boys are more ex-

Based on official figures and interviews with a panel of parents, the survey com-THE average family will missioned by supermarket spend an estimated chain Asda looked into the cost of parenting from con-ception to age five. It in-cluded expenses such as pregnancy, equipment, food, clothes, household ex-penses, education and liver on their promises to entertainment.

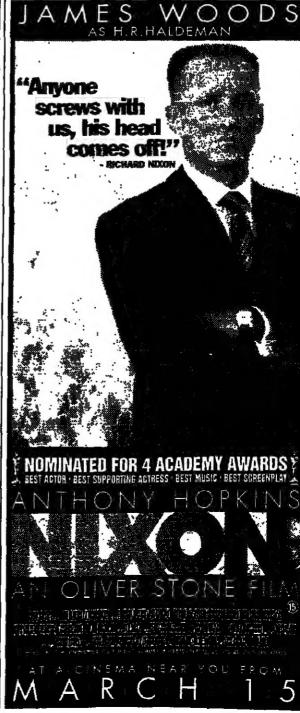
new-borns can run into The author, consumer hundreds of pounds. Add-specialist Jan Walsh, found ing top-of-the range accesthat mothers-to-be spend an sories such as pushchairs. average £373 "from concep- car seats, baby monitors and cots increases the cost to more than £1,800.

Between years one and three are the most expenpensive to feed than girls, the survey found



its membership; and if it is flexible enough to accommodate their political and cultural differences. "The government is totally opposed to a monolithic, cen-





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Sketch

in sceptic camp



Simon Hoggart

out as a Euro-sceptic yes-terday. In a shock announcement he confirmed what newspapers had been hinting at for months — that in spite of an apparently happy union for more than five years, his relationship with Europe had been little more than a sham designed to protect his image in the eyes of

Mr Major implied this was a private matter, and hoped the press would have the common decency to follow him everywhere and ask him persistent questions about the breakdown.

I suppose we should have been moved by his painful yet honest admission. But there was something not quite right about it. Mr Major did not have the air of one relieved to admit his true identity. He struck me as a man pretending to be gay in order to get on in

the world of ice-skating. The confession came after Winston Churchill (C, Davyhulme) accused the European Court of pricing European obs to the Pacific Rim. Mr Major wanted to sound

as if he were so angry that he was teetering on the edge of his reason. "I very strongly disagree with the ruling by the advocate general," he said, referring to the legal opinion that Britain's decision in the matter of employment hours was well out of order.

"This sort of European leg-islation is ludicrous...it is because of legislation like this and stupidities like this that the EU is becoming uncompet

itive and losing jobs to other parts of the world."

As Tories cheered, he went on: "It is complete nonsense and it is time that people began to stand up and say so!' Actually, a whole series of increasingly vocal fringe organisations such as the No

First night

tie known KrautRage, have

have sent private letters to Mr Najor threatening to "out" him as a Euro-sceptic if he does not change his policy. Perhaps this is why he is now so keen on a Referendum I am sure this is why his new tone is so extreme.

But I was not convinced by it. You can always tell when Mr Major is rattled, when he is not being true to himself. when he begins to attack Mr Blair for irrelevant reasons Yesterday the Labour

leader asked a reasonable question, to wit, would we have a Referendum only after the Cabinet decided in favour of the single currency? Mr Major reacted as if he had asked whether he was wearing his wife's knickers. "When we have completed our examination. I will ensure you that you are one of the first few hundred people to know!" he sneered, to the great pleasure of the Labour front bench who remain embarrassed by Mr Blair's anti-European past. (This was a youthful indiscre-tion, when, like so many

young men, he was exploring his own Europhilia.) Mr Biair returned. "He used to be flatly against a Referendum, and now he can't say." As Tories jeered, he cried: "They don't like it, do they Madam Speaker?" (Luckily he had for gotten the full catch-phrase:

gotien the full catch-phrase:
"They don't like it up 'em".)
The Prime Minister responded: "One of these days you will learn to quit while you are losing!" It was the only genuinely camp, limp-wristed thing he said all day.
Later a parade of Eurosceptics lined up to tell Mr Rifkind.

tics lined up to tell Mr Rifkind that he had better deliver the goods at the IGC this year. Lamont, Shore, Redwood Benn, Cash, Skinner and Bud gen — Betty called them all. (They ought to start wearing coloured bankies as code for what part of Europe they particularly hate.) Even Mr Jonathan Aitken

whirled the mighty sword of truth around his head and declared that if the negotiations failed (which almost all MPs assume they will) it would be time to consider withdrawing from Europe. People who badly need the support of peer groups, and he certainly had that yesterday.

Alarm at 'extra-territorial' law's threat to British firms as US puts grudge with Castro before allies

John comes out Cuba trade ban angers UK

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

set the United States on a collision course with Britain and several key allies yesterday when he escalated the US economic war against Cuba, approving the harshest ever package of measures against the island.

In a White House cere mony, Mr Clinton stood with the families of the four men killed last month when Havana downed two civilian planes piloted by Cuban-American exiles. Making it clear he was bowing to intense political pressure from the powerful exile commu-

law the Heims-Burton Cuban Liberty and Solidarity Act — the same bill he had earlier rejected as too extreme.

"In their memory I will con-tinue to do everything I can to their the tide of democracy that has swept our entire hemisphere finally reach the shores of Cuba," he said. The new law tightens the 36 year-old economic embargo

the life" from the regime of Fidel Castro, according to its Republican sponsors, Senator Jesse Helm and Congressman Dan Burton. The legislation represents a U-turn by the president who had previously led congres-sional Democrats in blocking

state yesterday, Mr Clinton was clearly determined to present himself as second to of Cube, and seeks to "squee none in opposing President Castro. Mr Clinton lost Flor-ida by a whisker in 1992, and

month's incident from Cuban

exiles made continued admin

istration resistance to the bill

The signing coincided with

yesterday's presidential pri-mary contest in Florida.

where Cuban-Americans' in-

fluence is pivotal. Even

though only Republicans were in competition in the

politically untenable.

believes victory there is cru-cial to his chances of re-elec-But the Helms-Burton Act could cause grave interna-

nity, the president signed into | for retaliation for last | ton. Britain, Canada and | France have all made strong ton over the law's chief measure, which would allow Cuban-Americans to sue foreign companies in US courts for trading in property they have

legally bought in Cuba.
Under the law, any Cuban exile who held assets worth more than \$50,000 (£33,000) be fore the communist revolution in 1959 can seek to reclaim them in the United States, even if he or she was not a US citizen at the time. The measure clears the way for a deluge of law suits against foreign companies in-volved in joint ventures with Havana. US law now regards them as "trafficking in expro-

challenge the measure as a violation of the North American Free Trade Agreement and to take the matter before the World Trade Organisation in Geneva. Britain has attorial" - an illegal extension of US sovereignty beyond its own borders. Trade rules in Britain have been changed to remove any obligation of UK companies to comply with the

"Get out of here Castro . . We want you gone!" Mr Burton said, hailing passage of the measure. The House Speaker, Newt Gingrich, de-scribed it "our freedom contract with the Cuban people". But Democratic opponents

Canada has threatened to I ordinary Cubans. "This bill is going to shore up Castro, not This kind of isolation actu-

ally helps Castro at home," a senior Democratic congres sional aide said yesterday, noting that the Havana regime will now have extra ammunition behind its claim that the US is responsible for

No one denied yesterday that it was the downing of the two Cessnas in February that had saved the Helms-Burton Bill from a certain presiden-tial veto. "The shooting hapone can be tough enough on Cuba -- even if it's the wrong policy," said the aide.



'It has been a complete nightmare for me, my family, friends and the pigs. They have all suffered equally'

– lain Whitney after his acquittal

ANCOUR between a

the policeman to concoct an "oppressive" vendetta which shamed British jus-

The sergeant's motive

drink-driving, the officer

John Ezard



Iain Whitney at the gate to the field where he keeps his saddle-back pigs and (above left) Sgt George Stepney, who has a chicken farm on adjoining land

saved by his wits and

makes great play in local pubs of how he had evaded the police and others in

The document showed

"very good evidence of bad faith" on the part of the police, she added. Steven Foster, prosecuting, denied bad faith by the officers. After being cleared, Mr Whitney said: "It has been

a complete nightmare for me, my family, friends and

the pigs. They have all suf-fered equally. If it could happen to me, a barrister

The plague years Everyday tale of rural strife clears barrister that infect us all

Robin Thomber

Aing-a-Ring O' Roses

HE SWAN in Worcester is the latest small theatre under threat of being turned into a receiving rather than a producing house in a move which would hammer another nail in the coffin of

the regional repertory system.
Why does this matter? Because the regional theatre not only provides the nursery of talent for television drama and film, but also leavens the culture and quality of life in provincial towns and cities.

So it is a particularly bold and defiant move for the theatre's artistic director, Jenny Stephens, to stage a new play in her main auditorium (with another one planned for September). And with Ring-a-Ring O' Roses no one could accuse her of pandering to Worcester's natural

The play has a curious provenance. Writer Garry Lyons—author of Mohicans, Frankie And Tommy and Wicked.
Yaar! and now a regular on dren's Ward — first worked on a plague theme when he was a student at York university in the 1970s.

One draft, titled Pestilence, had a reading at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, in 1984 but the name was unlikely to resonate at the box office. This renamed, rewritten version is far from being a quaint historical pageant. It takes the outbreak of plague in London in 1665 as a symbol of social and civic corruption which, it | fects us all.

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

AN ATTEMPT by an NHS hospital trust to introduce

immigration status checks for

some of its staff before new

government legislation comes

into effect has provoked

Hospital letter to staff leads

to row at immigration checks

The case, involving the Unitrust appeared to be target versity College London Hospitation minority workers.

cadavers of plague victims in the lime pit to face his own shabby complicity in the un-scrupulous blundering panic of the cavalier authorities and

ing it, not in the language of the period, but in a tough, modern vernacular embel-lished with colourful abuse. And Jenny Stephens's production achieves the same effect of combining historical authenticity with 1990s style to reach a poetic truth in much Barker does with The Wres-

The set, by Dawn Allsopp, is an abstraction of 17th century streetscape, jagged half-tim-bered buildings hinting at the ctammed city, wreathed in misty gloom which is pierced by expressive, focused light-ing from Christine Pier. The playing is compelling, very much of the here-and-now, though the costumes are

period. Vincent Franklin's swagger and shade, power and poignancy, the production is packed with memorable moments of theatre - not least a the dead crawl out of their pit to re-enact their story. In this context, it is as explosive as the gunpowder they used to dispel the "miasma" which in

tals Trust, highlights the diffi-culties faced by many employ-

ers when later this year it be

illegal immigrants.

comes an offence to employ

Letters from the trust's dep-

uty personnel manager, Caro

line Brown, to 300 staff told

them to ensure their work

A Unison official, said the

trust appeared to be targeting

permits were up to date.

chicken-farming police sergeant and his prize plg-breeding barrister neighbour led

implies, is just as virulent

realthy merchant class. was said to be to "get the other half" of the field which bordered their land. When the harrister was Lyons underlines its contemporary relevance by tellstopped for suspected drew up a police briefing document listing pubs be allegedly visited.

Iain Whitney, aged 46. saddle-back pig breeder

Legactic pub in discretion who knows a little about the law, who else could it happen to? I believe if they profession. Difficulties ap-

as the constable — bullying in command, fawning to his superiors — could come from a 17th century version of The Bill. And he is backed by a fine company. Beautifully paced, with carefully balanced light

Newly chic Gucci goes on sale for a cool \$1.3bn

vice, was acquitted of fail-ing to provide a breath

specimen and awarded costs by Rugby magistrates. The verdict followed an

accusation by Mr Whitney's counsel, Elizabeth

Barrett, that the sergeant, George Stepney of War-wickshire police, had "used

his position of power in order to pursue his own

private vendetta".
The court had been told

Mr Whitney, of Pillerton

Hersey, Warwickshire, was stopped while driving home

from the Peacock pub in Oxhill, Warwickshire, last

MAJORITY stake in Gucci was put up for sale yesterday in a move that symbolises the fashion house's resurrection after years of turmoil and

Against the background of the almost doubling in its share price over the last few months, the scramble to buy is likely to mirror the desperation of customers wanting Gucci's latest loafers, hipsters and U-shaped shoulder bags.
The 51 per cent stake held
by the Bahrain-based invest-

ment house Investoorp is val-ued at more than \$1.35 billion (£900 million). Investoorp sold a 49 per cent stake last October for only \$539 million (£350 million). The latest shares will be offered to in-

vestors world-wide. Even by the volatile stan-dards of high fashion the Gucci transformation has been dramatic. Six years ago the Florence-

based company was flounder-ing. Now the likes of Ma-donna and Yasmin Le Bon are beating Gucci's doors down in an attempt to buy coats cost-ing £2,000 each and suits at

In the 1980s the company series of giddyingly success-was losing money and the ful collections including the advertising programmes.

Gucci family spent the decade | now almost classic combina-more intent on internal feud- tion of hipsters and satin ing than managing a multi-million pound business facing

Worse, the problems seemed long term in a financial world notoriously short term in vision. The brand name had fallen firmly on to the feet and shoulders of the mass market. Cheap imitations were everywhere. And headline writers were more concerned with the Gucci family's latest battle with the tax authorities than the latest winter collection.

The Gucci revival has been spearheaded by 34-year-old Tom Ford, creative director since 1994 when the last Gucci - Maurizio - was bought out by Investcorp for a reported

Investcorp had already bought out other family members for about \$200 million. Few would have put money on a successful outcome from the combination of an Arabowned investment group and a former jeans designer from

In fact Gucci has found that all-powerful combination in fashion, aesthetic success Gucci brand, as well as our matched by too few clothes to go round.

Mr Ford has produced a

tion of hipsters and satin shirt, metallic loafers and

used by Mr Whitney for 30 pigs. Miss Barrett said Sgt Stepney moved the bound-

ary fence at least twice to encroach on to his land.

Magistrates heard that last August Mr Whitney ran off after being stopped.

He was not cautioned, said Miss Barrett, and not

even arrested. "He was a target and hebecame a vic-tim," she said. "In this case the police have behaved in

a manner which British justice ought to be ashamed of. It was an oppressive, capricious,unfair and dan-

thong sandals, and shaggy Even better for the compa ny's image, many of the top shops have long waiting lists. It was a technique also used

Gucci is now making a lot of money. As the brand be-comes chic again, so customers are prepared to pay £300 for a pair of shoes or £30 for a key ring. Leather goods and shoes account for 69 per cent of sales.
The company announced

yesterday that turnover last year soared by 69 per cent to \$500 million (£330 million) and pre-tax profits profits rose four-fold to \$120 million. Sales in the United States Gucci's largest market. doubled to \$178 million, while sales in Japan rose 120 percent to \$108.5 million and sales in Italy gained 111.2 per cent to \$58.3 million.

Gucci chief executive officer Domenico de Sole said: product repositioning strategy, improved product delivery, increased store produc-tivity and enhanced

Rifkind walks tightrope between EU and sceptics

continued from page 1
over Spanish "quota hopping" in British fishing
waters and the threat that
"back door techniques" could
also be used to impose tax
changes it may now heat ax changes, it puts more heat on the Government than John Major would like in an election run-up. Mr Rifkind was last night

privately delighted that the first round of the party battle had gone as well as it did in the Commons. But he knows he is engaged in a give-and-take negotation in which he needs room for manoeuvre at the IGC. Apart from his detailed options to curb what critics call the "ratchet" tech-niques of a politicised Euro-Court, his one sticking point appears to be a refusal to in-crease the scope of qualified majority voting (QMV) in the Council of Ministers.

The white paper includes a proposal that the IGC should prevent health and safety reg ulations — the basis of yest to spike Britain's opt-out The shadow foreign secre

tary, Robin Cook, attacked the white paper for saying nothing about the social chapter, the need to add employ ment targets to the monetary targets set in the Maastricht Treaty and the single

and former barrister with | ens and tended vegetables | pear centred around debts | tragedy. That night I was | assault and affray against the Crown Prosecution Ser- on land bordering a field | and alcohol abuse. He is | frightened, I will admit I | three officers involved in ran away because I was the incident. frightened and it turned Warwick Warwickshire police said: 'The case was prop-erly brought. Because of out I was right in doing so.

"Now we can get down to some important pig breed-ing and win some prizes and have a good day." the private prosecution pending, which will be rigorously defended, we Mr Whitney has launched can make no further comments".



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legoes of

E OF NEWBURY: Sheriff's officer handcuffed to tree in day of drama and farce

Climbers in hand to hand battles 50ft up

John Vidal

WO teams of Britain's most skilled rock climbers, one loyal to the cause of conservation and the other hired by the Under-Sheriff of Berkshire, yesterday fought hand to hand "jousts" 50 feet up the trees on the route of the

Newbury bypass.
It was the most dramatic episode yet in the so-called third battle of Newbury, moving from extreme dan-ger as climbers grappled and swapped punches, to high farce as one of the Sheriff's officers was iso-lated by protesters and handcuffed to a tree. By the end of the day, 38

people had been arrested, a woman's ankle had been broken in scuffles with security guards and the Sher-iff's army of retainers had clawed another small section of bypass route from the grip of the protesters.

The battle — a clash of philosophies as well as climbing skills — started at dawn when protesters jumped on a slow-moving cherry-picker machine on a hill outside Newbury, stop-ping it and a convoy of se-

curity guards.

A delay of more than an hour allowed a flying squad of 10 leading rock climbers. including Ben Moon, one of Britain's two professional Gotan tree bouses had been rock climbers, time to cleared of protesters and reach Gotan Camp on the most of the amateur climb-



Ben Moon, with details of solicitors provided by Friends of the Earth, as police prepare to take him to Basingstoke police station photograph andrew testa

trees waiting for Under Sheriff Nicholas Blandy

and 400 guards. The Sheffield-based climbers — who are staying in the Newbury camps in protest against climbing colleagues accepting £500 a day from Mr Blandy to drag protesters out of the trees - raced to the tree houses.

Within an hour two of the bypass route. Here 30 pro- ers and tree-livers had been

brought down in a cherrypicker and charged by the police. The scene was set for the two climbing teams to face each other.

"It's like gladiators," said Nicola Murphy, a Newbury resident who had come to the camp to see what was happening. She and 100 others who had gathered below the trees were treated to a display of death-defying technical climbing virtuosity.

full use of their one advan-

climbers was "three quartered", with someone on each leg, one on his arm and only holding on to the

tage, the cherry-pickers, which they manoeuvred to take one person at a time.

One of the Sheffield

cherry-picker for safety.

At one point there was: full-scale fight between four climbers with fists go-ing randomly, arms being twisted and people in head, leg and arm holds.

In what became a battle of wits, with climbers on both sides chatting and in-sulting each other liber-ally, Mr Blandy's men climbers came from below. ed Mr Moon's team

For five hours the climb-ers blocked the routes up, hanging upside down, cut-ting off walkways and teas-ing the Sheriff's men. High farce followed as two of the climbers hand-

cuffed one of Mr Blandy's officers to a tree. Mr Moon and Stephen

climber, were caught when

Jim Perrin said: "Those who have joined the bailiffs many in the climbing com-munity because they are skills when they attack the protesters," said Jim Per-

The climbers were charged with violent disorder. Climbing commentator

are set to be ostracised by abusing their climbing rin of the British Mountain evidence that either man was

Branson and BA fuel airline feud

Patrick Donovas City Editor

HE great "dirty tricks" battle between the UK's two biggest airlines hotted up last night despite the payment by Richard Branson's Virgin Atarch rival British Airways. BA seized the opportunity to claim that the high-profile corporate battle was at an end as Virgin had agreed to pay the costs involved in a case

alleging computer misuse which never came to court. In addition, the airline claimed, a \$1 billion (£650,000) court case being brought against BA in the US was solely concerned with anticompetitive behaviour and

aviation policy.

But Virgin dismissed the
BA statement as "absolute
nonsense", claiming that the computer misuse case was settled a year ago.

It also said BA knew well that the American dispute and the dirty tricks affair as

its background.
The long-running feud was based on Virgin's claims that BA had used irregular methods to "poach" pa its most lucrative transatlantic routes. It also alleged that BA had tried to damage Virgin's reputation with a

smear campaign". The feud with Virgin was at least indirectly responsible for former chairman Lord King's handing over execu-tive control by becoming BA's president. It also saw the departure of David Burnside, the former in-house director of public relations and the external consultant who had worked closely on the BA ac-count. There is, however, no

implicated in any of the alle-gations made by Virgin. The saga also caused huge disruption within the BA board as each director was required to sign an undertaking that he or she had no knowledge of the "dirty tricks" alleged by Virgin. BA said Virgin had brought

the computer misuse action against BA in 1993 and had claimed £29 million damages. Eventually, each side had agreed to pay a proportion of the other's costs. Virgin accepted a settlement of £285,000 from BA last year and has now agreed to pay BA £338,000, said BA.

BA said that a three-day hearing had been due to be held next week to decide the

Its new chief executive, Bob Ayling, said: "I am pleased that since 1993 there has been a more normal relationship between the two companies. I hope this will now continue because today's agreement finally closes off the issues be-tween us in the UK."

Mr Ayling said Virgin's three outstanding complaints against BA in the US courts were "without merit" and that the case would not take

place for at least two years. But Virgin said: "This statement from BA is absolute nonsense. In total in the UK, BA has paid Virgin more than 22 million in damages over the various actions.

year in order that the US action could go shead. As BA well know, that action [the US one] does include as its background the dirty tricks affair and other actions BA has since taken in the market place.
"We shall carry on with our

American case and we hope it will go ahead by the end of

Life goes on and up for 'distressed' Julia Carling

'Scandal is doing for her what Grant did for Hurley, Edward Pilkington reports

ULIA CARLING, the England rugby captain embroiled in allegations that he slept with the Princess of Wales, yesterday picked up her first television award and

vowed: "Life must go on". Mrs Carling was named satellite television personality of the year at a Television and Radio Industries Club ceremony in London. A fellow award-winner was Martin Bashir who took best factual rogramme for his Panorama interview with Princess

Commenting on recent events, she told reporters after the award ceremony: "It is not great, but I have to carry on. Winning this award

makes up for it." The accolade is the latest in a media career that has risen as her marriage has

The latest spate of adverse press coverage for Will Car-

ing a harsh indictment of her husband. "It was sick-mak-ing," she said in reference to husband's tryst with the princess. Mrs Carling's lawyers have

made it clear that she played no part in leaking details of her husband's alleged affair. "She is very distressed," a The publicity guru, Max Clifford, who has helped Mr Carling's former secretary to break the story of the liaison.

said: "The Will Carling and Princess Diana scandal has done for her what Hugh Grant and Divine did for Liz Mrs Carling began on the fringes of the media as a publicity consultant in a central

Hands On. with her brother Adrian Smith She met Mr Carling at a dinner party in 1989 and started a relationship with

Her glittering career

O 1992: Julio Smith starte career as easistant in a record shop

Seek and starts also year relational aged 18, when meets guitanst Jeff
Beck and starts also year relational to.

Q 1991: Sets up own PR company, Hands On, with her brother Adrian

O 1993: Forme relationship with Will Carling.

O July 1994 Marries Will Carling, Leaves Hands On.

Out 1994: Starts presenting pop music show on cable television

August 1996: News of the World breaks story of Will Carling's friendship with Princess Diana.

tember 1995: Separates from Writ. Begins presenting Capital Womain on Carlion O January 1996; Offered

Press watchdog says she had given press interviews gned in part to enhance her image and promote her O March 12, 1996: Tabloids

allege Will Certing had affair with Princess Diana: Julia is on front cable television award.

At first, she reveals to the Tatler, she was happy to play "that role of second fiddle. It was lovely - suddenly everybody recognised you. Who wouldn't get a kick out of it?" But she also craved an iden tity of her own, and later that year she left Hands On to She became a presenter on the cable music channel "for adults". VH-1, on which she now appears about six hours

Frances Naylor, the channel's executive producer, said Mrs Carling had been chosen as a presenter for her own qualities.

dropped. She warned the princess then that she had this time'

The following month she began presenting Capital Woman, a daytime show on him four years later. Within a | Carlton described as aiming | dle was never for me." its president DELATE, the marriage

Sarah Boseley on

the royal row

that lost Relate

day accused a Sunday newspaper of wrongly suggesting that the charity wanted to dis-tance itself from its patron, prompting the resignation of its president.

Joanna Foster resigned on Monday over comments attributed to staff in the Sunday Times, which suggested the charity wanted to distance itself from the princess until the public wrangling over her

divorce came to an end. After spending most of the day closeted in a meeting, the charity's spokeswoman emersed to accuse the Sunday Times of getting it wrong. She was unable to explain why this had not been communicated to the president before Ms Foster circulated her strongly-worded resignation

letter to all staff.

The article 10 days ago suggested the charity was afraid its image might be tarnished sented by the Sunday Times' ervations about the princess remaining as patron. Ms Cole had worked for Relate for many years, as a counsellor and in other roles. "I have never heard anybody say they didn't want the Princess of

idea that there is anybody out there saying it is untrue. The quotation attributed to

Ed Straw, chairman of the charity, was "a misquote", she said. He said, according to

How Diana relates to good causes

The Princess of Wales is charities in this country and 12 overseas - some large and some quite small. She has a narticular association with about 150 in all.

☐ Help the Aged ☐ British Red Cross



Joanna Foster: quotes wen a betrayal of trust'

in public events over the nex mony is resolved." Relate has not to date mad any formal complaint about

the newspaper. Mr Straw denies he made any mention of acrimony while Relate points out that there have been very few plans involving the princess since she made her public withdrawal from public life

ties Commission, that it was

"I think she felt that som back on the Princess of Wales," said Ms Cole. In her esignation letter to all staff. Ms Foster left no room for me to Relate, she said, "clearly implied criticism of the pat-

Among those that boast her s patron or president are:

☐ The British Lung Foundation ☐ National Aids Trust

Serpentine Gallery,

□ Ty Hafan children's hospice. South Glamorgan

bear brunt of sting in winter's tail publicly about the patron ... they constitute poor judg-ment, a betrayal of trust and **Barbie Dutter**

So had nobody explained Relate's side of the story to the president? "These kinds of conversation are taken at the level of the board of trustees." said Ms Cole. "I can't

really comment." The whole sorry episode, she said, had been very painful for all concerned.

Relate was established almost 60 years ago to counsel couples going through difficulties in their relationships. It changed its name eight years ago from the National Marriage Guidance Council to indicate that it helped all

Its 130 centres around the country see about 6,000 couoles each year.

Rural parts of Grampian

Scotland and northern England

THE latest blast of winter saw snowfalls of up to six inches yesterday, left six inches yesterday, left thousands of households without power and brought more misery for motorists. Scotland and the porth of Scotland and the porth of Six inches of snow fell in England bore the brunt of the Pennines, with up to gales and driving snow, four inches recorded in with 3,000 people in the north of Scotland last night bracing themselves for a night without power. Emer-

gency shelters were set up in some areas to supply warmth and hot food. In Cumbria, firemen used extending ladders to rescue two men trapped on the roof of their car in a ford swollen by torrential rain.

Strong gusts of wind caused extensive damage to corporate hospitality marquees at Cheltenham Racestart of the National Hunt Festival.

had several inches of snow, blown into drifts by gusts of more than 60mph. In Moreyshire, drivers faced sandstorms as high winds whipped soil from fields.

the Midlands.

Police and motoring organisations urged driver to take extra care in condi-

tions of freezing rain. The London Weather Centre said the sudden snap had been caused by a cold front which would retreat westwards today. Northern Ireland and the far south-west of England were expected to see some snow or icy rain today, but most of the country would be cold and dry.

two years ago. "She let Relate know very clearly that she would not be ling — he was accused by yes-terday's Daily Mirror of havan active patron," said Ms ron. Relate urges its clients to ing slept with Princess Diana Cole. "It was the princess's decision, not ours." They keen their grievances private. has coincided with a rash Yesterday Relate spokes-woman Julie Cole declared it of favourable publicity for his looked forward to greater involvement in the future. had been "totally misrepre-Nobody appears to have told Ms Foster, Relate's emi-She appears on the front at "upmarket housewives". The deal is believed to be month he had proposed and Nobody, she insisted, had resnent president and the forme they married in the summer magazine, posing in £995 Giorgio Armani suits and givhead of the Equal Opportuni

She was just getting to grips with her new job when the Princess Diana bombshell London firm. In 1991 she set up her own PR company,

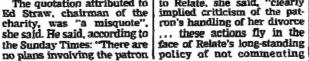
There has been the odd blip in her upward trajectory, as when she was caught by papa-razzi last October kissing her hairdresser outside a restaurant. However, when she complained to the Press Complaints Commission, it pointed to articles, in which she participated, that were designed in part to enhance

More of Mrs Carling's Midas touch is likely in future. She is filming a sixpart series of "Where's the ack?" - a car maintenance guide for women While Mr Carling's career in rugby is tailing off,

England captaincy, his wife's seems to have only just begun. Yesterday she said the whole affair had made her "a heck of a lot stronger maybe the role of second fid-

following his announcement

that he will retire from the



Centrepoint ☐ Turning Point ☐ Foundation for Conductive



Separating from his wife will reportedly cost £27 million but for "Muck" Flick, unburdened by a day's employment during his 53-year life, the settlement should buy instant relief. However, the dour Rheinlander will continue to suffer the intrusion of the tabloids, which regularly remind their readers that Muck is ultra-rich, professionally idle and sadly confused

22 cever story

course hours before the

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	£25,000+	4.41	4.50	
	£100,000+	4.65	4.75	
	£250,000+	4.89	5.00	
Clients Premium Deposit Accor	£25,000+	3.72	3.75	
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British-born airman vows to continue legal fight as 'sympathetic' appeal judges criticise emirate royals

'Torture' pilot loses court plea to sue Kuwaiti state

Owen Bowcott on a question of immunity

who claims he was tortured by the Kuembers of the emirate's Al-Sabah royal family yesterday vowed to take his test case challenging state immunity to

Lawyers for Sulaiman Al-Adsani, aged 36, failed to con-vince the Court of Appeal in London that the Gulf state should be made liable through the English courts for the severe injuries sus-tained when he was beaten by prison guards and scarred by burning petrol. The hearing, which high-

lighted concerns about human rights in Kuwait, coincided with an international conference at two West End hotels to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the war

against Iraq.
Organised by the Kuwaiti
government and addressed by politicians such as Baroness Thatcher, George Bush, the former US president, and Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, the conference was intended to focus interna-tional concern on the continuing human rights abuses of Saddam Hussein's regime.

In a unanimous judgment by Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Ward and Mr Justice Buckley, the court dismissed Mr Al-Adsani's appeal. But the judges did express sympathy for his

"The body of the plaintiff has been scarred by what is accepted to have been torture in the same way the body politic is scarred by torture," said Lord Justice Ward.

Members of the Kuwaiti royal family were more likely to have been responsible for the injuries than the Kuwaiti state. Lord Justice Stuart-Smith suggested. "[They] had demonstrated their readiness hands ... and subject him to extreme and life-threatening

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BRITISH-born pilot | ment, claims he was arrested by Kuwaiti authorities at the end of the Gulf war because they wrongly suspected he had distributed a sex video featuring a member of the Al-

"A guard put a machinegun to my head. I was handcuffed and they were kicking me from behind," he said. After being released from prison, he was driven to a private villa where he claimed he saw a swimming pool with six or seven floating corpses. "I was dragged into a small room where foam mattresses, soaked in petrol, were set alight. My body was very

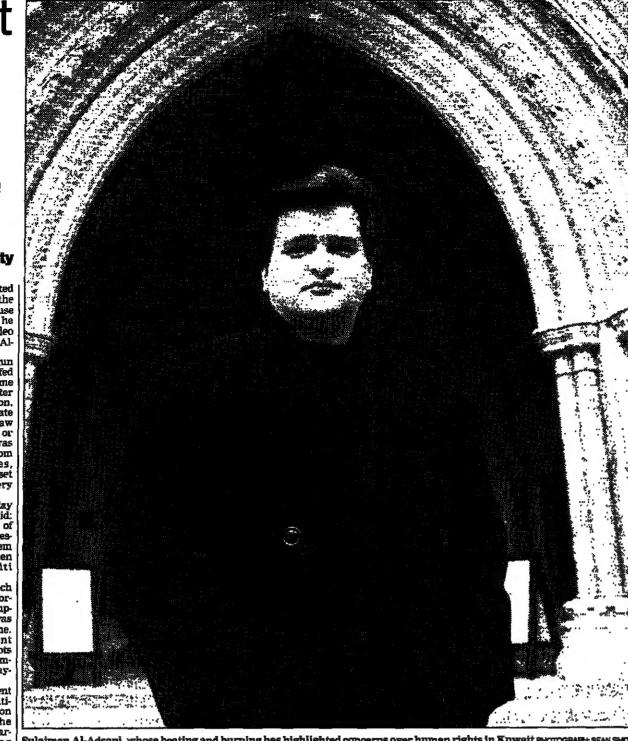
At the end of the two-day hearing. Mr Al-Adsant said: "We will go to the House of Lords and Europe, if necessary. If we can persuade them to lift the state immunity then I will sue the Kuwaiti

Redress, a charity which campaigns on behalf of torture victims and has sup-ported his case, said it was disappointed at the outcome. The Kuwait government seems prepared to spends lots of money fighting for its im-munity but is avoiding pay-

ing compensation."
The Kuwaiti government conference also drew criticism from the charity War or Want, which accused the country of "breathtaking ar-rogance" in condemning human rights violations in Iraq, while abusing human rights within its own country. Margaret Lynch, War on Want director, yesterday handed a letter to the Kuwaitis about the plight of Palestinians, Iraqis, Jordanians, Bedouins and other foreign nationals imprisoned in

Almost 1.000 foreigners were allegedly rounded up in Kuwait after the war. Many peared between February and June 1991. Amnesty Internaassaults."

Mr Al-Adsani, who now lives in London and is still being held in Kuwait after undergoing medical treat- "manifestly unfair trials".



beating and burning has highlighted concerns over human rights in Kuwait PHOTOGRAPH SEAN SMITH

Brent seeks to freeze out Unison

Labour Editor

OUNCILLORS in the Tory-controlled Lon-don borough of Brent have decided to "de-recognise" Unison, the largest union in the country. in a move effectively without

government.
The decision was taken by Brent's personnel committee, despite advice from officials that ending collective bar-gaining with the Thatcheriteled council's most significant union could "increase mili-tancy and reduce co-

The plan to de-recognise Unison, representing about 2.700 manual and white collar workers employed by Brent, will now go to the full council next month, where the Conservative group has a majority of one.

The reason given in council documents is the "unacceptable personal conduct" of Unison's regional official cov-ering Brent, Stuart Barber, who is accused of leaking false information to the local

The only means of ensur-ing that the council no longer has to deal with Mr Barber, a report to councillors ex-plained, "would be formal de-recognition of Unison."

Last night Mr Barber dismissed the allegations as lies, described the Tory council leadership as "scallywags", and said the real reason for his "victimisation" was a

Brent has a reputation as a politically maverick council and came under Tory control after two Labour councillors

sought to outdo Westminster as a municipal Tory flagship, pushing through a far-reaching privatisation programme and attempting to create an internal business market in the council. The borough is the seventh poorest and most racially mixed council area in Britain.

Last month, Hilary Arm-strong, Labour's local government spokeswoman, called on the Tory party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, to launch an investigation into what she called the council's "sleaze and mismanagement" after a series of financial scandals.

An attempt to end union representation rights in a local authority is believed to have happened only once be-fore: at Adur council in West Sussex, where three small manual unions were unable to agree a lead representative

Brent's Tory personnel committee chairman. Sean O'Sullivan, said yesterday: "This council is not into union bashing, but it will not be bashed about by a union. Any illegal strike action resulting from this decision will be considered to be a breach of contract and officers have been instructed to take the necessary action to deal with the problem should it arise.

Labour councillors believe that the attacks on Mr Barber are a cover to smash the union in Brent. Chris Humphries, Unison's London regional secretary, said that race discrimination case in any move to de-recognise the volving a senior Brent union would be strongly resisted.
"Whatever the issues, you

simply can't deny the right to union representation to sev-eral thousand public service

British firms still offering 'shock batons' abroad

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BRITISH security equipment companies are continuing to offer quotations for supplying electric shock batons to notorious regimes despite the exposure of the trade in torture weapons last year.

screened tonight. Back On the

Torture Trail, Channel 4's ers were German. Tonight's Dispatches shows that five programme reveals that a companies agreed to supply the batons from third market research report on export opportunities in the Middle East, which was par-tially funded by the Depart-ment of Trade and Industry. countries for export to Zaire. Last year the same televi-sion team revealed that Royal Ordnance, part of British Aerospace, was prepared to supply thousands of the 60,000 advises British firms that special forces in Qatar are interested in procuring elec-tronic batons. The report was volt sticks to the Lebanon and drawn up for the Association of Police and Public Security to Saudi Arabia, RO's suppli Suppliers, a division of the

Defence Manufacturers reporter, Martyn Gregory won £55,000 in libel damages from the DTI after ministers and the then Trade Secretary. Michael Heseltine, wrote to MPs and constituents that the first film had been

'scaremongering. For the follow-up, Dispatches chose to target two of the five companies. Using the name of a fictitious company called Eric Lopez Associates, called Eric Lopez Associates, spanned that it would be ilbased in Basle, it invited the companies to tender for a package of internal security equipment. The programme's "office" was a public telephone and fax office at Basle when confronted by Dis-

Providing the low-down BILL Buttimer, manag-ing director of Compass Safety International: "It's Safety International: "It's electronic. It gives him a huge electric shock. Low, low current, high voltage."
Q: "Right, non-lethal though?"

Buttimer: "Oh yes, I mean that's the whole ob-ject. Otherwise you'd just shoot the guy. This is basi-

railway station. The first patches, Mr Knights pushed company, SDMS Security the crew out of his office. He Products, based in Fulham, told the Guardian yesterday. west London, offered to sup-ply British-made anti-riot shields, helmets and side-handled batons as well as 300 shock batons, valued at £75 each, to be sent direct to Zaire from South Africa.

In secret filming David Knights, a director of SDMS, explained that it would be il-

cally to make him behave Q: "Right . . . well, we're

not going to need an export

licence?"

Buttimer: "No, you're not. Because they're coming straight out of Mexico."

Q: "And is Zaire going to present a problem at all with this?" Buttimer: "No."

the crew out of his office. He told the Guardian yesterday: "We have nothing to hide. We don't supply equipment that is knowingly used for torbure. I like to think we are a decent company." As an example of the equipment's use, he said he had recently supplied ha-tons to a Far East country

unruly refugees on

which needed them to control

The quote from the managing director, Bill Buttimer, was for 900 batons at between £50 and £60 each. The head of the Mexican factory admitted they could be dangerous, "es-pecially when you put it in the groin."

made and exported legally

When Compass was con-fronted, the programme says, the chairman, Don May, with-drew the offer and announced that Mr Buttimer had resigned. Mr May told Dis-patches he "abominates the

on a helpless person."
Following the first proamme in January last year Strathclyde police began in vestigating a Glasgow busi-nessman, Frank Stott of ICL Technical Plastics, who had demonstrated one of the ba-tons, which are banned in Britain under the Firearms

Ministry of Defence police also confiscated one from the Royal Ordnance Factory in Chorley, Lancashire. A report The second company, Compass Safety International of Salisbury, introduced Dispatches to their supplier in Mexico, where batons are

Labs 'broke animal use rules'

Gary Younge

MAN who spent two years working under-cover in London animal research laboratories yesterday accused the institutions of breaching government guidelines on animal abuse and called on the Home Office to launch a full-scale

Crispin Iles, a member of these laboratories. the Anti-Vivisection Society, claims he saw a monkey with the Anti-Vivisection Society.

The Home Unice said: If there is any evidence of flouting procedures the organisation should bring it forward and we will look at it."

The society claims it was forced to conduct an under
there is any evidence of flouting procedures the organisation should bring it forward and we will look at it."

Mr Iles, aged 24, legally changed his identity to Christopher Clarke before taking a metal plate and electrodes bolted into its head, the gasplus rats, and dogs which had

makers that would cause cover investigation because heart failure. The laboratories cannot not be named. To do so could put the staff and ries, and the laboratories denied the sceiety's claims that they do so could put the staff and their families at risk.

We have shown that neither the law nor the Home Office Inspectorate can protect laboratory animals. Our report details many instances of both the spirit and the let-ter of the Government's code of practice being ignored in

themselves, are so secretive. Jan Creamer, director of society, said the investigation illustrated the urgent need for more openness about the way in which licences to conduct experiments were issued and

ernment

laboratories. "There can be no industry

the process by which the Gov-

the society's claims that they inflicted unnecessary suffer-ing on animals and insisted they adhered strictly to Home Office guidelines.

A spokesman at one said: "All research is subject to stringent external review and regulation by the Home Office."

A representative of the other said: "We are subjected which generates so much to regular, unannounced home Office inspections, and manifestly unaccountable." if we were ever in breach of any of their regulations I'm sure they would tell us. "And they haven't."

Rogue Chinese satellite makes inscrutable exit from world stage

Tim Radford Science Editor

Alternatively, Russian antiaircraft defence forces in Moscow said pieces of the satellite crashed into the northast Pacific at 0325 GMT.

The Americans were cer-tain of the fate, if not the pre-cise whereabouts, of the identified flying object that dominated the headlines as it threatened to hit Britain. The

lite, in earth orbit at 18,000mph, skidded into the atmosphere and vanished.

Knox, a spokesman for the US Space Command. Whether the capsule survived, and if it did, what it hit, is a mystery. "Unless somebody finds a piece of it, there's no way to know," he said.

Richard Crowther, a space

High Blood Pressure?

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inspected

satellite with the oak shingle heat-shield outside and the diamond encrusted Mao Zedong button inside, plunged to its doom harm-lessly over the south Atlantic at 0410 GMT yesterday, the US Space Command said.

blip that represented the sat-ellite simply disappeared from radar screens. The satel-

"If it survived re-entry, it should have impacted in the southern Atlantic," said Dave

scientist at Farnborough, said yesterday: "The US space command have got it right. It was the Atlantic. I'd like to know how the Russians can identify those pieces as com-

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Europe paper 'avoids the key issues'

Problems loom for Labour on treaty stance

Michael White

ABOUR last night con-demned the Government's white paper on the forthcoming Maastricht review negotiations as an atreview negotiations as an at-tempt "to please everyone that, as a result, will please no one". The paper failed to address three issues which di-vided the Conservative Party — the proposed European single currency, the social chapter and measures to combat mass unemployment.

Robin Cook also came tan-talisingly close to saying that Labour might beat the Government to declaring in favour of a referendum on the single currency. "No British government can join a single currency without the consent of the British people," he told the Commons

tons' abroa

But potential dangers for Tony Blair in the election run-up emerged from two directions during the statement by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary: Tory claims that a Labour government would abandon Britain's veto across a range of social, in-dustrial and environmental policies, and the evident hostility to further compromise from Euro-sceptical colleagues like Tony Benn, Den-nis Skinner and Peter Shore.

remain fields of intergovern-mental co-operation, and not become part of the integrated EU institutions.

Welcoming Mr Rifkind's declaration that subsidiarity should be entrenched at the Will Hutton, page 9

forthcoming intergovernmental conference (IGC), Mr Cook added: "Our only regret is that this government does not practise subsidiarity in Britain" - by devolving whatever powers it manages to repatriate from Brussels.

As for enlargement of the union: "There can be no greater mission for western Europe than opening its doors to the new democracies of central and eastern Europe, to support democracy in those countries and stability of the borders."
But Mr Cook questioned

whether the EU could admit up to 15 more members, "each of them clutching a veto over the full range of issues settled by unanimity". He contrasted Lady Thatcher's embrace of wider qualified majority vot-ing in the drive to create the single market with the Gov ernment's threat to discover that opposition to qualified

majority voting was a guiding principle. For the Liberal Democrats, Charles Kennedy said the Government's strategy for the IGC was in danger of "imme diate collapse under the weight of its own internal con-tradictions". How, for instance, could EU citizens get closer to the union when their elected representative at the European Parliament would not be represented at the IGC? Tory Eurosceptics wel-

secretary, went out of his way to acknowledge what he called "the positive tone" of much of the statement, and endorsed the white paper's insistence that foreign and defence policy, plus home affairs and justice, should remain fields of intergovern to one of the ludicrons laws. to one of the ludicrons laws that came from Brussels, and demonstrate that Britain needed a looser relationship.

'The treaty has failed the people . . . the Government can only achieve its wish-list by renegotiating it'



BILL CASH

"There is a sense in the electorate in Europe and in the UK — whether one looks at the question of Bosnia. ERM, fishing, monetary union or a host of other matters — that the Maastricht treaty bas failed

the people. In order to make the changes to put this right, in the interests of Europe and the UK, there must be change to the treaty

Yet treaty amendments require unaminity. How is the Government going to achieve the objectives set out in this wish-list of a white paper, except by renegotiating the Maastricht treaty?"



JOHN REDWOOD

"The Government say they want a partnership of nations They want to protect the powers of Westminster and the British nation to make crucial decisions . . . that is all fine, but the issue is, 'Is the negotiation position, as defined, strong enough to live up to those good words?' In the Commons chamber

Mr Redwood pressed Mr Rifkind: "Given the way the European Court is demolishing our fishing industry and our social chapter opt-out, I think the Government will have to come forward with stronger measures . . . to limit the powers of that court and to reassert our own right to make our own decisions."



EDWINA CURRIE "I would have preferred a

white paper that was much more positive and which proposed really strong changes in the EU which our partners would have supported. But we were not going to get that, although we may in the negotiations. It was a bit thin. Reading it and

listening to the debate in the Commons, one wonders why the Government bothered. So it is five out of ten, could do better, keep trying. It is very rude indeed about the European Parliament which has in it representatives of the British electorate. Britain ought to be doing everything it can to make sure that the parliament works better, and stop being so critical of it."



JONATHAN AFTKEN "It struck some good Euro-

sceptic themes, such as new limits on the European Union and on the European Court of Justice and to defend our national opt-outs. But he added: "I warn you

[addressing John Major] that if by any chance those important battles you and your team are going to fight were to fail, or if they were to be surrendered by the sorevealingly new Europhile Labour front bench we heard this afternoon, then for the first time for many years, this House would have to start to seriously consider the option of withdrawal."



NORMAN LAMONT

'The real test is . . . whether this country can, over the next few years, avoid being sucked into a European state of the kind I discovered at the last intergovernmental conference many of our partners do actually want."

He asked whether there was "any organisation in history which has had an elected parliament, a supreme court, a passport, a right of citizenship and a single currency which has not been a state". He added later: "Some of

European parmers actually do wish to create a United States of Europe. It requires enormous determination to be happy to be isolated, to fight and to resist that



IAIN DUNCAN-SMITH

"It is still on the cusp of deciding whether we are going to demand an Anglo-Saxon free trading Europe, or a Franco-German Europe which is more rigid and deep. We have got to be much bolder about setting forward our Anglo-Saxon alternative.

The door is opened by the white paper to radical change by the promise of a memorandum on the future of memorandum on the nature of the European Court of Justice, but ministers have got to accept the ECJ is not like a British high court. It has been and always will be a political animal that will not just look at dispersives. just look at directives, but also interpret rules and speeches to justify its centralising vision."

EU partners plan delaying tactics in negotiations and hope for deal with 'flexible' Labour government

BRITAIN'S European Union partners last night appeared determined to delay the conclusion of the Maastricht Treaty review until after the gen-eral election, in the hope that a Labour government would prove a more flexi-

In Brussels, publication of yesterday's white paper confirmed fears that compromise with John Major's

governments will see little scope for agreement with London on the key issues facing the intergovernmental conference (IGC) — extending majority voting, restricting the national veto, enlarging the powers of the European Parliament and writing employment objectives into the treaty. The other 14 governments will now concentrate

on hammering out an out-

pext year. The Irish government, which takes over the EU presidency from Italy in June, hopes that an outline consensus among the 14 will be reached by the Dublin et al. While the reached by the Bublin et al. While the reached by most of the rest of us over many, many months," a senior like the rest of us over many, many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many, many months," a senior like the rest of us over many, many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many, many months," a senior like the rest of us over many, many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many, many months," a senior like the rest of us over many, many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many, many months," a senior like the rest of us over many, many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many, many months," a senior like the rest of us over many, many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many, many months," a senior like the rest of us over many, many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many, and the rest of us over many months," a senior like the rest of us over many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many months," a senior like the rest of us over many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many months," a senior like the rest of us over many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many months," a senior like the rest of us over many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many months," a senior like the rest of us over many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many months," a senior like the rest of us over many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many months," a senior like the rest of us over many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many months," a senior like the rest of us over many months, "a senior like the rest of us over many months The Irish government, lin summit next December, although they do not know whether the election will

government is now all but impossible.

It is likely that most EU governments will see little scope for agreement with see little feal with a Blair-led government by the middle of land on on the key issues leave to the middle of land on on the key issues land on the land of land on the key issues land of land European Union institu-

sensus including Mr Major. But is that remotely poss-ible? Maybe we will have to

towards Europe would be under

comed, but doubts persist about Labour's readiness to

However, the Commission, the European Parliament is preparing for a con-

'Constructive, realistic, rooted in national interest'

Michael White and Patrick Wintour

on the details of the IGC white paper

"constructive, realistic and rooted in the British national interest". But it is determined to resist pressure towards a United States of Europe and will have to be persuaded of the benefits before conceding further decision-making powers to Brussels.

yesterday's white paper. Drafted in the Foreign Office, its pragmatic tone remains unmistakably committed to the opening paragraph — that "the UK's role as a leading member of the EU is vital to our national interest".

The European Union must never become "a cosy, in-ward-looking club," the white paper says, and it warns against pressures for "tighter political integration, more centralisation, more uniformity and corporatist economic solutions to perceived

PHE Government's approach to the Maastricht review conference is diversity, and do "only what needs to be done at a European level and do it well".

It endorses the "variable geometry" view of EU devel-

or "inner core" view some he benefits before conceding brither decision-making powers to Brussels.

Thus is the main thrust of assessment of British interest. Common European decision making as opposed to co-operation, can only be justified where it brings benethe belief it states clearly in the opening paragraph—that the UK's role as a leading which are so significant that they justify some loss of unfettered national control over decision-making in the area concerned, or where common to exercise joint control

says. The Commission

difficulties of the free market".

But its underlying assumption — that the European the doctrine that nations or Union is "more than a free regions handle as many deci-

balance the arguments, Euro-sceptics will not be placated.

It wants means of letting provision clarifying the appli-the Council of Ministers seek cation of subsidiarity in the The Government endorses an early opinion from the interpretation of EC law.

Court of Justice when a member state disputes the legal basis on which the Commission is acting. It also wants to limit community action "through the back door" such as invoking health and safety to extend social policy, and tighter monitoring of commission are such as invoking health and safety to extend social policy, and tighter monitoring of commission are such as the community of the c mission powers

Council of Ministers It signals Britain's refusal to concede any more policy control to a qualified majority voting system, while saying there is a "strong case" for the big four states — Germany, France, Britain and Italy with two-thirds of the EU's population but only 10 votes each out of 87 in total to have greater voting weight. Without reaching a firm conclusion on how to protect small states' rights too, it favours a "second voting cri-terion" like population.

The European Parliament It is "most likely to win public support" by developing its role as a restraint and monitor on "fraud and mis-management". It does not need new powers and cer-tainly not at the expense of national parliaments whose Maastricht.

European Court of Justice

sometimes seem to go beyond what governments intended in framing EU laws. The Government would like the IGC to exwhich is not open to them inamine strengthening the power of the court to limit retdividually," a key paragraph rospective application of its judgments; introducing the principle that member states should be liable for damages only in cases of serious and manifest breaches of their obligations; applying national time limits to all cases based union is "more than a tree trade area" — colours the 27 page summary of Britain's a "sunset clause" which would kill proposals from the with 12 pages of detailed annexes, ahead of the intergovernmental conference (IGC) in Turin. Though it seeks to for greater deregulation.

It wants means of letting the amplification of the seeks to for greater deregulation.

It wants means of letting the amplification of the seeks to for greater deregulation.

It wants means of letting the amplification of the seeks to for greater deregulation.

and security policy
It is in Britain's interest for the EU to act together as much as possible on the world stage, but such policy must never replace national policy. If there is no collective will to act, it is unwise to force action through artificial vot-

already agreed at Maastricht that they should try not to stand in the way of a given policy which has majority Defence policy

The white paper insists that issues of defence go to the heart of national sovereignty. Decisions to send servicemen are for national governments accountable to national parliaments. Member states must their national interests.

European defence co-opera-

tion must therefore be organised in such a way that, while bearing their full share of the burden within Nato and without building structures that duplicate those already national parliaments whose European countries are able role in holding ministers to to act on their own when necaccount is entrenched in essary. The Western European Union, rather than the EU, provides the best basis for European defence co-oper-The court's interpretations ation. Its separate intergovernmental treaty base ensures that decisions on defence policy are taken by consensus and remain where they belong --- with sovereign

> Justice and home affairs These are matters of high domestic political sensitivity involving questions of national sovereignty such as the rules governing the admission of third country nationals to member states operations of police and customs authorities and the criminal justice system. There can be no question of supranational solutions imposed on member states in the areas regardless of national sentiment or varying social and legal traditions.

nation states.

Colonial.

have been held by then. wait for a new face in "I cannot say there are Downing Street."

administration.

The commitment to rejoin the social chapter is weldistance itself from the Conservatives' bitter opposition to some majority voting on internal justice, foreign and security policy.

servatives' bitter opposition socialist group, said it was "hypocrisy" to exclude "the only democratically elected institution in the EU."

ment and most member frontation with the Council states are not yet sure how of Ministers over its likely different in practice policy exclusion from the IGC bewould be ginning in Turin in two Labour weeks, writes Stephen Bates. Both Labour and Tory MEPs believe the parlia-ment should have at least observer status. Pauline Green, British leader of the parliament's majority

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Chronicle of a genocide foretold

Victoria Brittain assesses the bitter truths behind UN chestbeating over its failure in Rwanda

N EARLY January 1994. three months before the genocide in Rwanda in which about 800.000 people were killed, the United Nations force commander in the capital, Kigali, ent his superiors in New York a coded cable.

It revealed the Rwandan security forces' training of interhamwe Hutu militia. their boast to be able to kill 1.000 Tutsis in 20 minutes. plans for political assassinations and the forced with-drawal of Belgian troops, and the existence of a large weapons cache in the capital.

The UN chose to do nothing, and its moral authority attempt to pretend it did not

This is one of the principal | donor countries implicated in conclusions of an unprece- | the failure in Rwanda. dentedly self-critical report on the Rwandan tragedy, pub-lished yesterday, which was sponsored and financed by several UN agencies and by governments and non-govern mental organisations from 37 countries, led by Denmark

pond to the genocide. "Humanitarian aid was substituted for political action," Niels Dabelstein, chairman of the report's steering committee, said.

criticism for failing to res-

The report's embarrassing findings and its challenging political recommendations have been welcomed by many

munity can afford to ignore this," one aid official said yes terday. The lessons for the deepening crisis in Burundi, Rwanda's own continuing instability, and the seemingly insoluble problem of nearly Almost every level of the UN 2 million refugees still in organisation comes under Zaire and Tanzania almost

two years after the genocide were clear, the official said. In the first weeks of the systematic killings, the UN sec retary general himself. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, was not on top of the situation and misjudged it, the peacekeeping department was paralysed, and the Security Coun-cil could not get its act report's 52 independent experts at the launch in London

"The UN failed the test, the early warning signals were simply not heard," said Astri Suhrke, a Norwegian academic and joint author of the most critical section of the study which reviewed the failure of early-warning systems and conflict management.

"Was it possible to organise the machinery of death without the world knowing, in a country where there were numerous UN organisations including a military force overseeing a peace accord, many NGOs, and where France was very heavily in-volved with the government's machinery in every sphere, from economic to military?"

France is the only sponsor

demanded amendments. which were only partly accepted by the independent

authors "Several agencies that came in for harsh criticism stayed with the project — it is a powwere so poorly managed that

erful tool, it provides | they may have contributed to ammunition for those who really want reform in the UN," said Mr Dabelstein, a Danish foreign ministry official. deaths, the report said.

were among the organisa-tions criticised for their work during the refugee crisis in the aftermath of the genocide. The report says they were beset by competitive tensions. 200 non-governmental organi-

sations - with some honour-able exceptions such as Oxfam and Medecins Sans

mere African tribalism

Only the BBC and Le Monde

tributed to international lack

of interest in the genocide."

The UN failed the test — the early warning signals were simply not heard'

The media's concentration

on the visually dramatic story of the refugees was also partly responsible for distorting the distribution of resources into camps and away from survivors. As media interest has ebbed, so have donor commitments Recent appeals for Rwanda asked for \$285 million

(£180 million) for 1996. Just

\$1 million has been received. "In post-genocide Rwanda, rhetoric has not been human rights or rebuilding the justice system," said David Tardif-Douglin, a The media were sharply criticised for irresponsible reporting which too often por-trayed the genocide and the targeted killings of politicians Washington-based consultant and co-author of the report's section on reconstruction. Only a regional solution can solve the Rwandan refuwere named as exceptions. "The failure of the media congee crisis and at the same time hope to avert a complete

Rwanda as strategically important, said one of the class saw the first draft and one co-ordinating agency. The authors.

Burundi and Eastern Zaure, and one co-ordinating agency. The authors. tions include:

• the creation of a small. powerful humanitarian subcommittee within the UN Security Council to focus on preventive diplomacy:

• a beefed-up co-ordinating
role, with adequate funding.

for the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs which has been emasculated by more powerful UN agencies: · a recognition of the imporrhetoric has not been tant role played by regional matched by resources for organisations, such as the Organisation of African Unity: a clear I'N mandate to pro-

· better regulation and accountability of NGOs

The International Response to Conflict and Genocide, Lessons from the Rwanda Experience.

Allies at odds over Nigeria

lan Black

RITAIN is working to persuade the United States not to pursue proposals to ban foreign investment in Nigeria and freeze the African country's financial assets abroad as a way of pun-ishing its military regime for human rights abuses.

Baroness Chalker, the Foreign Office minister, is to tall her counterparts in the that such moves would be premature, since the US has not followed Britain and its European Union partners with the limited punitive measures imposed after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists last November.

Foreign Office sources say any new measures — can-vassed in a letter from the US president. Bill Clinton, to the Prime Minister, John Major, last month — would be ineffec-tive without an oil embargo.

And since the US buys 60 per cent of Nigeria's oil ment in Abuja with 90 per cent of its foreign-exchange hasn't thought this through,"

Baroness Chalker said. British officials are particularly scornful of an additional US proposal that joint sport-ing events with Nigeria end - but only when this year's

Atlanta Olympics are over. Despite the punitive action against Nigeria, the country's nilitary ruler, General Sani Abacha, has still not agreed to receive a team of Commonpension from the organisa-tion to consider measures

against the regime. Sources in Whitehall say the Treasury, reluctant to damage London's position as an international financial centre, is strongly against the freezing of assets, which in the absence of a United Nations Security Council resolution, would require

special legal powers.

Any such move would also be anticipated by Nigerians holding assets abroad.

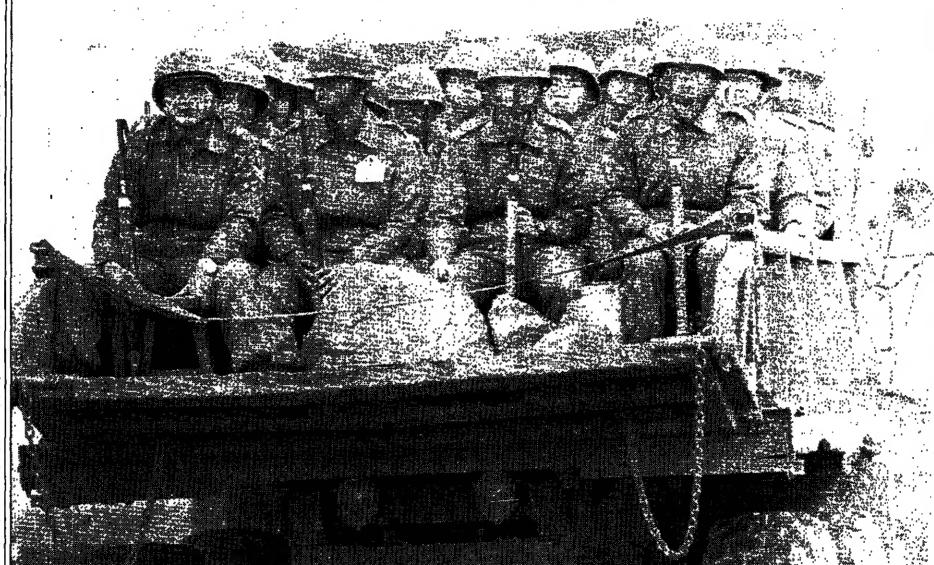
arms embargo, tightened visa controls, suspended nonhumanitarian aid, expelled Nigerian military personnel and withdrawn its own defence attaché. But the High to Abuja on the grounds that his presence was required to smooth the path of the Commonwealth mission. The package is supposed to establish our seriousness

prior to re-engaging the milia speedy passage to democracy." a US official told the New York Times.

to hand over power to civil-ians in 1998. But the military annulled Nigeria's last demo

Britain and other European countries contend that blockwhich totalled \$1.95 billion (£1.2 billion) in 1994 - would merely deliver another blow to Nigerla's crumbling economy, affecting the poor and not their corrupt military rulers.
A consortium of British

Dutch, French and Italian oil companies has just signed a contract to build a \$3.8 billion wealth foreign ministers natural gas liquefactionplant formed after Nigeria's sus- in eastern Nigeria.



State of alert . . . Taiwanese troops gather on the western island of Penghu yesterday, amid fears that China might try to seize an islet held by Taipei

China shows its teeth with live-fire exercises

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S TWO United States aircraft carriers lumbered towards Taiwan for perhaps the biggest display of American power in Asia since the Vietnam war,

Andrew Higgins in Talpei

China yesterday began live-fire war games with naval manoeuvres and bombing runs in the strait between Taiwan and the mainland. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) launched its latest show of force as fears mounted in Taipei of a Chinese assault on one or more of the small and lightly defended

begun digging roadside trenches in the heavily forti-fied islands of Quemoy and Matsu. A more likely target, however, would be vulnerable

islets that could be seized with little or no combat. "They want to show their teeth," said Andrew Yang of the Chinese Council of Advanced Policy Studies, a

The seizure of a small island would mark a danger-ous escalation and force the islands held by Taiwan along | US to define what is still offi-

Taiwanese troops have ambiguity" towards China's but the risk of accident or March 23. China's apparent Taiwan yet, despite relentless begun digging roadside sabre-rattling. By next week, miscalculation grows daily. | aim is to put voters off Prest | media coverage of the Chi-Washington should have two naval battle groups, led by the nuclear powered carriers Nimitz and Independence, in the sea off Taiwan.

Quemoy was at the centre of a confrontation in 1958 between Taipei and Beijing that also brought US carriers to the region. A reinforced garrithink tank close to the Tai-wanese military. They are trying to push Taiwan to a po-litical settlement entirely on

China views the test of wills as an internal affair but the ous escalation and force the issue has mushroomed into a would create real danger."

US to define what is still offi-volatile international crisis. In the run-up to Taiwan's cially a policy of "strategic No side seems to want war first presidential election on

The US assistant secretary of state, Winston Lord, said the US naval deployment was a gesture "to reassure our riends in the area that we have a big stake in the stabil-ity and peace of that region".

China takes a different view. "The United States should be careful that it doesn't send the wrong message to Taiwan authorities that it supports their splittist activities," the foreign ministry spokesman, Shen Guo-fang, said. "If that message were relayed to Taiwan, it

China planned to apply yet more pressure next week, with a new. bigger round of

effectively blockade much of President Lee yesterday mocked "surrenderism" and vowed to stand firm. "There

dent Lee Teng-hui, who is seen in Beijing as a closet champion of Taiwanese inde-

pendence. The result seems to

The Hong Kong newspaper Ming Pao said yesterday that

have been the opposite.

There is no sign of panic in get their promotions.

media coverage of the Chipoll yesterday showed 64 per-cent of respondents unworalthough only 22 per cent be-lieved China did not have the ability to attack. Opinion was evenly divided on whether with a majority welcoming

US warships. Some fear Washington may stoke the tension. Edward unification New Party, said: "Many young officers in comis only one thing that you munist China demand war so must not change, and that is love of Taiwan."

munist China demand war so they can be promoted. America should not help them to ica should not help them to

Mullahs frown as Pakistanis get up and dance News in brief

Under Benazir Bhutto, discos, music and fashion are no longer taboo, writes

| one, by Lahore singer Abrar, wrote letters to the news papers blaming the propagate papers blaming the propagate preminder of courtesans. She and others reject the nudge lyrics along the lines of pakistani cricket.

Suzanne Goldenberg in Karachi

shoulder of one of the young people who had been driven into a heaving, sweating frenzy by the musicians on stage: "Your dancing is very sweet and refined, daughter, but why are you in the middle of all these men?" While parents disapprove and and mullahs sputter with rage, Pakistan is undergoing gave the first televised perfora cultural revival. This week's concert by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, who sings qawalt (devotional music)

and has collaborated with Peter Gabriel, was one of 18 gala events to celebrate the cricket World Cup — and an-nounce the return of dancers, pop musicians, folk singers and fashion designers from the cultural wilderness. All the events have been broadcast on state-controlled

Pakistan Television, offering

a potential audience of 75 mil-

lion their first glimpse of activities that have been taboo

HE well-dressed woman since General Mohammed Zia leaned forward to tap the ul-Haq imposed his version of Islamic dictatorship nearly 20 years ago. "Dance was looked on as

revolutionary and un-Islamic. We failed to recognise our own classical dance because we felt it came from India," said Nighat Chaudhry, Pakistan's leading exponent of kathak classical dance, who mance. "It was stifling. It was a real struggle to perform." But the atmosphere has been improving slowly since Benazir Bhutto returned as prime minister in 1993.

Last year, the country's first 24-hour private radio station went on air trying to win over middle class audiences that had long since switched off the dreary statecontrolled network. FM100 plays a mix of Western and Pakistani music, punctuated by phone-ins; there is no

get your tickets, boys, and wait your turn. Which is another country

from the experience of Salman Ahmed when he per-formed his patriotic song My Heart is Pakistani on TV seven years ago. "There was this huge hullabaloo. My friends told me: 'Don't go out in public or they will shoot you.' Some mullahs smashed up television sets," Mr Ahmed recalled.

Music-haters have been vocal this time around too. The Jamaat-e-Islami leader, Qazi Hussain Ahmed, issued a fatwa against the World Cup television specials - "a conspiracy of the Zionist-Hindu lobby" - and accused the government of promoting obscenity.

In the upper house, Islamist senator Maulana Samiul Haq called the director of Pakistan Television a harlot who was turning the country into a brothel: "Showing young girls and boys dancing and vised not to wear the traditional ghungros, or anklets culture and goes against is of bells, for her television per-FM100's current number lamic beliefs." And people formances because they are Muslim woman."

ers before they were knocked out of the quarter finals. The director, Ra'ana

Shaikh, is undaunted, 'It is an outlet for young people. she said. "For a nation to be the rock group Junoon. complete, culture is as essential as food or religion." But Ms Shaikh's glasnost has done little for the for-

girls and boys dancing and twisting together goes against Islam

'Showing young

tunes of the former cricketer Imran Khan, who has been banned from state-controlled

television even during the Freedom still has its limits. Ms Chaudhry has been adidea that music and dance are un-Islamic. "Zia's form of Islam had nothing to do with Islam. It was just to do with

his way of governing," said

Mr Ahmed, now a guitarist in Adjusting to the new freedom is proving complicated. During the Zia years we became indoctrinated to the extent that we started censoring ourselves," said magazine editor Fifi Haroon, a former singer and fashion stylist.

Although religious parties have only a smattering of seats in parliament, they have a disproportionate influence. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan said earlier this month that non-Muslims and women continue to suffer discrimination on religious lines.

"You have pockets of open society and then a lot of deeply conservative people. You have a lot of extremes," said Ms Haroon. "Benazir treads a thin line. Everytime there is a backlash, she

UN report damns Sudan A United Nations report yes-

terday accused Sudanese au-thorities of rampant human rights violations, ranging from executions and systematic torture to tacit encouragement of slavery, kidnappings, rape and child trafficking.—AP.

Magistrate held

Rome's chief examining mayistrate was arrested in an anti-corruption investigation launched by Milan's "clean hands" prosecutors. Renato Squillante, aged 52, was arrested at dawn and his offices were searched, - Reuter.

Women freed

Kidnappers vesterday freed a German and a Swiss woman who were abducted in northern Costa Rica more than two months ago and held for a 81 million ransom. - Reuter.

Hippo kills tourist

One person drowned and one was injured after a hippopotamus capsized a canoe carrying French and German tourmakes a conservative state ists on the Zambezi river, ment to prove she is a true Zimbahwe tour leaders

and leade ur-hour SL

- Miame

Uneasy alliance faces criticism on human rights

Parliament backs Turkish coalition

Chris Nuttali in Ankara

Mold

in Turkey won a vote of confidence in parliament yesterday. But it faces strong opposition at home to a rapid privatisation programme, and increasing criticism from abroad on

human rights. The Motherland-True Path coalition won easily by 257 votes to 207, with 80 abstentions. "I am grateful to parlia-ment for expressing confi-dence in our 53rd Republican government." said the new prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, leader of the Motherland Party. "With this result, Turkish democracy has overcome a difficult test.

He was congratulated first, with kisses on both cheeks. by Necmettin Erbakan of the the first rotational arrangemain opposition Welfare Party, then by his coalition partner, Tansu Ciller of the True Path Party. But the

icles were seen as a threat to party has no debt or link to the principles of the republic the government," he said.

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

summit in Egypt will at least

The presidents, kings,

prime ministers and other officials will have just four hours to discuss political violence and the Middle East peace process in Sharm el-Sheikh before putting their names to a declaration which

names to a declaration which

President Bill Clinton will fly in today. He will be joined

Shimon Peres, the Palestinian

Gulf countries, and, of course,

Egypt will also attend.Syria and Lebanon are boycotting

the summit because, they say,

it is too narrow in scope. Iran, expected to be a prime

has already been drafted.

I may not be an effective way to counter terrorism, but today's 27-country established by Kemal Ataturk in the 1920s and the other four, avowedly secular, parties in parliament rejected its coalition overtures.

His 158 MPs form the biggest bloc in parliament and will give the government a rough ride. There is already tension

within the coalition. Mrs Ciller feels she was pressur-ised into stepping down as prime minister to make possible the centre-right coalition demanded by the media, the business community and, apparently, the armed forces.
Personal differences between herself and Mr Yilmaz had blocked previous efforts to come together during 10 weeks of negotiations following the election. Mrs Ciller will now retire to the backbenches until it becomes

ment in Turkish history. But the government may not survive that long. It is 15 seats short of an overall majority and won the confidence last long.

Mr Erbakan feels he and the electorate were cheated when Welfare won most votes in the December general election that was denied a share of the tacit support or Mrs of the Democratic Left Party, who abstained Their leader, Bulent Ecevit, has warned that from now on the wallton is on its own. "Our

four-hour summit

rinian grievances

Last night, in a surprise move, a Libyan minister ar-rived in Cairo en route for

Sharm el-Sheikh. Diplomats said that Jomas al-Fezzani would deliver a message to President Hosni Mubarak.

The Libyan news agency
Jana said yesterday: "Vital
Arab issues are being horribly abused for the sake of

President Clinton and Mr

Peres hope that the summit will boost their re-election chances. Mr Peres in particu-

lar is desperate for a diplo-matic triumph to balance the

Mr Peres has described the

summit as "a very impressive show of solidarity with Is-

rael" and his government has

stressing the potential value of international joint action

her turn to be prime minister at the end of the year, under

ment proposals to speed up the privatisation of state industries and may oppose the renewal of the mandate for Operation Provide Comfort, the US-led mission protecting the Kurds of northern Iraq with an air umbrella, which expires at the end of this

Mr Yilmaz has abolished the post of human rights min-ister in the government and the subject received no menhas already been interna-tional criticism of an appar-

ent tightening of laws limiting freedom of expression.

Turkey's best-known author, Yasar Kemal, received a 20-month suspended sentence last week for an article he wrote on the Kurdish problem. Ninety-eight intellectuals will appear in court today on similar charges of spreading separat-

ist propaganda.
As the vote of confidence was being taken, human rights activists were besieg-ing a court near the western city of izmir, where 16 teen-agers, aged between 14 and 18, were being tried for member-ship of an extreme left organisation. Girls and boys among them have said they were stripped, beaten, sexually abused and given electric shocks while in custody.

well as words. "We do believe that Sharm el-Sheikh is im-

portant not only for its politi

cal significance and symbolic

value, but in terms of the concrete results and the mecha-nism to ensure concrete

actions in the future in many areas," he said.

was better summed up by Brigadier General Yaakov Amidror, a military intelli-

gence officer, who reportedly told a Knesset (parliament) committee that in his opinion

the summit would not produce significant results.

"Anyone who expects prac-ical results from the confer-

it could to help fight terror-

ism. "We will do all within

our power to help combat the

terrorists, in co-operation

with the Israeli and Palestin-ian authorities," the Foreign

Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind.

ence is naive," he said.

The popular mood in Israel



Cheering sight . . . A Bosnian Muslim celebrates the arrival in Ilidza yesterday of police from the Bosnian Croat-Muslim Federation

Refugees flood back to gutted suburb

As the Bosnian flag flies over Ilidza, some Muslims are ready for reconciliation with former Serb foes. Julian Borger reports

rajevo was jammed yes-terday with thousands of refugees driving or walkhomes in the outlying town of Ilidza, after four years of war and Serb separatist Muslim refugees returning

Ian Black in London adds: Britain, meanwhile, said yes-terday it would do everything The column of cars and pedestrians stretched for more than a mile from the western edge of the city to the centre of Ilidza, a keystone of the 43-month Sarajevo siege which

Bosnian Serb police relin-quished on Monday. A crowd of returning refugees cheered as the Bosnian flag was raised over the police station, but the atmosphere cooled as many found their homes gutted after a cam-paign of looting and burning immediately preceding the

Serb withdrawal. Nato claimed yesterday to have curbed destruction and widespread lawlessness in the suburbs by substantially increasing its patrols - revers- ethnic character.

THE main road out of Sa ing a policy of non-involve-rajevo was jammed yes ment in "civil police duties". French troops set up check-points and searched vehicles overnight during the tense and the arrival of the mainly-Muslim refugees returning

from Sarajevo A joint Italian-French force has stepped up 24-hour foot and mounted patrols in Grba-vica, the last separatist-held suburb where remaining ci-vilians are under threat from Serb extremists trying to force them to leave.

The commander of the Nato-led peace implementa-tion force (I-FOR), Admiral Leighton Smith, said yester-day: "We're doing everything we can short of shooting

people."
The policy reversal came too late to prevent a Serb exo-dus from the Sarajevo region, and the country's chances of restoring their pre-war multi-

An estimated 2,000 Serbs there and this seemed to put remained in Ilidza—far more than in the other three suburbs handed over to the Muslim-Croat Federation, but less than 10 per cent of Ilidza's Serb population when the Bosnian peace accord was signed in December.

"Ilidza in a way was a fail-ure because a lot of people have left and a lot of people have been intimideted into leaving," said Kris Janowaki. a spokesman for the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR. "A lot of property has been destroyed and a lot of money went to waste."

Hasan and Raba Bajramo-vic were relatively lucky. They walked up the stairs of their old apartment block expecting to find their flat a burnt-out shell like those of many of their neighbours.

Raba was weeping and could hardly bear to look past their front door, but Hasan strode in and shouted with pleasure at finding an old pair of spectacles he had left behind in May 1992 when they fled into the city.

The furniture had all been aken by the flat's wartime Serb occupants and the plumbing had been wrenched "It was a war," he said-

"War always brings certain things with it. I don't even think of hating the Serbs. Whoever staved on, let them

'I won't live with Serbs from outside Sarajevo who ruined this city'

Serb neighbours. "But I won't live with all those Serbs who came here from outside Saraievo and ruined this city." Other returning refugees have been less willing to bury wartime differences. Alexander Ivanko, the spokesman for the UN police force, said his office had received dozens of reports of harassment of Serbs by people returning to the suburbs. The UN stressed that the federation police

further soured by a row be-tween Croat and Muslim police, illustrating growing rifts within the fragile federa tion. Nine Croat policemen arrived in Sarajevo yesterday to take part in a joint Ilidza force, but their Muslim counreturning Muslim, said he would be prepared to live once more with his former

green of the Muslim-dominated government police, the Croats returned to their base n Kiseljak, 10 miles away.

Nato reported rising ten-sion between Croats and Muslims throughout the country, and Admiral Smith warned yesterday that "the federation is in trouble".

 The United States war crimes investigator, John Shattuck, said yesterday he believed Belgrade would hand over to the UN tribunal two suspects held on suspicion of having committed atrocities in the Srebrenica enclave last

Mr Shattuck was speaking after meeting Serbian Presi-dent Slobodan Milosevic, He also visited the two suspects. Radoslav Kremenovic and Drazen Erdemovic, who were

arrested on March 3.

Twin babies die in Israeli siege

other leaders including Boris
veltsin, Jacques Chirac, Helmut Kohl, and John Major.
Morocco, Jordan, all the claimed 62 lives.

target of the final communi-que, has dismissed the sum-In Jordan yesterday, the said.

Jessica Berry in Ramaliah

"HE Israeli blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip claimed two more lives yesterday — newborn twins who apparently died when their ambulance was delayed at a

military checkpoint.

The mother gave birth to the second baby in the ambulance, according to a Palestinian source. Long queues at an Israeli military checkpoint prevented the vehicle from passing, the source said. The Israeli army last

night confirmed the deaths. On Monday, a 21-day-old boy died when his ambulance was prevented from checkpoint. An elderly woman died after she wa forced to wait for five hours in her ambulance at the Gaza checkpoint. Israeli authorities said ambulances had smuggled weapons in the past and therefore had to be

inspected. Mustafa Bargbouti, president of the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees, said the blockade had paralysed health services. "Emergency facilities are completely inaccessible to the majority of the population," he said. An Ispopulation," he said. An Ismats, journalists and raeli consignment of emer- United Nations workers.

gency medical and food supplies into Gaza yester-

day is unlikely to cure the misery for long.

mit as a US and Israeli ploy to | foreign minister, Ehud Barak, divert attention from Pales | called for summit action as

Eight cities and 465 towns and villages have been completely cut off from one another by the blockade. In Gaza, Israel has blockaded the sea and forbidden fishing, Gaza's principal livelihood.

"Each village is sepa-rated, like an independent country," said Radwan Yassin, a teacher in the West Bank town of Ramallah, who has been unable to get to his classes in Jerusa-lem for two weeks.

The military blockade is Israel's collective punishment against four Hamas suicide bomb attacks that have killed 62 people in the last two weeks. "The closure is to punish

the chief Fatah leader Ramallah, Marwan Barghouti, said yesterday. Fifty-three Europeans, Americans and Canadians said yesterday they had been unable to leave the Gaza Strip for the past week because of the block-ade. Diana Mackintosh, an English teacher from Lopdon, said the only foreign-

ers allowed to leave or

enter the strip were diplo-

Though Mae West wrote her own screenplays and

virtually directed her films, we recall her less as a

skilled comic than as an overblown caricature. a

walking, talking version of the wartime inflatable

life preserver named after her.

Marybeth Hamilton

UN monitor says Iraqi arms checks will continue

Diplomatic Editor

UN monitoring of Iraqi weapons programmes may have to continue for another 15 to 20 years, according to Rolf Ekeus, head of the United Nations Special Com-

mission, Unscom.

Mr Ekeus told a conference in London that only the close involvement of the UN Security Conneil had finally forced Baghdad to co-operate after two recent stand-offs involving weapons inspectors.
"We are very concerned that these incidents could

form part of a pattern," he said. "They also demonstrate something odd and disturb-ing that five years after the ceasefire Iraq still considers it of value to keep alive the option of weapons of mass people only; there is no se-curity benefit [to Israel]." lestruction."

On Monday Baghdad tem porarily bauned UN inspec-tors from checking a site for documents and materials, fuelling suspicions that the Iraois might be trying to move or destroy incriminating

After an 11-hour wait, the team was finally allowed into the installation near Baghdad, which Iraq said was a Presidential Guard training centre. Last Friday it was barred for 18 hours from searching what Iraq said was its irrigation ministry.

News in brief

Mexican governor forced to step down over massacre

THE governor of the Mexi-can state of Guerrero, Rubén Figueroa, has been forced to step down over the massacre last June by local massacre ast June by local police of 17 peasants, despite being cleared earlier this month by a prosecutor he had himself appointed, urites Phil Gunson in Mexico City.

threatened to withdraw from talks on political reform unless he was removed from office.

The PRD's president, Por-firio Muñoz Ledo, called for Mr Figueroa to be confined to Mexico while the supreme court considered the case. Political pressure led the The opposition Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) had consistently demanded his prosecutor's conclusions.

resignation, and on Monday

Auschwitz plan Lelay, and an impersonator, Patrick Sebastien, were convicted of incitament to racial strains ties

Plans by Polish and German developers to open a shopping centre opposite the Nazi death-camp Auschwitz could strain relations between Israel and Poland, writes Mutthew Brzezinski in Warsow. Yesterday, the speaker of Israel's narliament. Shevah Weiss, called on Poland's president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, to block the project.

No joke The head of France's private

hatred yesterday over a sketch in which Sebastien impersonated the National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen and sang a song called "Beating up Blacks". They were fined £4,000 each. — Reuter.

Correction

Monday's Guardian carried a brief news agency report about the killing of two Israeli soldiers by Islamist guerrillas in south Lebanon. It later emerged that only one Israeli had died. Four others were TF1 television station, Patrick | wounded, one critically.

FBI lures spies and stool-pigeons

lan Katz in New York.

The bureau recently placed adverts in two Vietnameselanguage newspapers in the United States, seeking to contact "those who had worked ing to combat espionage.

THE FRI has found a cum for, communicated with or ning way of rooting out been asked by the Vietnamese foreign spies in America — it advertises for them, writes intelligence in the US. "Dissatisfied" sples were asked to telephone a man called "Mr Pigeon". The move reflects the frus-

tration the FBI has met in try-

Bullets fly as Crete swaps tourism for gun-running

accidents, writes Helena Smith in Chania

out. But his specs were still were behaving correctly.

Sand debonair, the moustachioed taverna-owner pops the ques-tion over a glass of raki. "Do you know anyone who would like to buy a Kalashnikov? It is a very good veapon - I ve just got another, you see." Across Crete, guns are changing hands at a rate

with which only the most industrious can keep pace. Night and day, the rugge hills of Greece's popular but unruly island ring to the rat-a-tat-tat of gunfire. Bullet-ridden road signs and windows testify to a Alongside the cultivation

of hashish, weapons-smuggling has reportedly become the single most profitable business on Crete. In recent years, many say, it has made up for the island's drop in tourism. The Cretans boast they

have been a weapons-loving people since ancient times. Centuries of clan warfare and foreign occupation turned them into first-class mercenaries and the finest of shots. Even the women of the mountains, who still wear headscarves and black dresses, are taught from a tender age to pull

Despite Greece's strict laws on gun ownership, at

TRAIGHT-BACKED | least one in two families on the island is thought to possess a gun illegally. What's

more, many have the latest in combat weaponry.
"When we were ruled by outsiders, and especially during the Turkish occupation, Cretans saw guns as being absolutely essential for their survival," says Yannis Geredakis, who edits the leading local daily, the Chaniot News. Almost every month, the

paper reports the death or injury of an islander who has been accidentally shot at a fiesta where gunfire is seen as a crucial part of the celebrations. "Marriages and baptisms are often turned into funerals." sighed Mr Geredakis, who has written a stream of editorials denouncing the phenomenon.

Cretans have begun, with increasing regularity, to fire on each other in quarrels over land disputes and

sheep-rustling.
The love of arms is not confined to the highlands, where villagers have long shown contempt for the law. Around the elegant Venetian port habour of Chania, shops trade in imitation hand grenades, air pistols and bunting rifles. Those willing to invest in the real thing need only venture into the bars and

Many islanders are dying in squabbles and | tavernas in the town's

Recently there have been shoot-outs between rival arms dealers in the town. Foreigners and locals attempting to smuggle in weapons, explosives and bullets have also been ar-rested. Police say most of the arms are brought in by ferry boats from Italy, although some have made

former Yugoslavia.
"We've tightened up security at all our ports and airports and even invested in specially trained dogs police officer in Chania.

Schoolchildren receive lectures on the perils of gun culture and video cameras have been installed in big entertainment halls where gun fights often break out. The measures were adopted after an amnesty fell on stony ground. "Only one man came forward and handed us an ancient pistol," the officer said, shaking his head ruefully.

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A modest vision of Europe

A sensible enough white paper: now for the hard bit

tary baptism yesterday. A year ago, when the European intergovernmental conference seemed likely to overshadow domestic politics, the balancing act which Malcolm Rifkind performed yesterday would have been harder. His document's peaceful reception would have been more difficult to bring off too. But as the general election has neared, the Conservative mood has become more disciplined. The context of European events has favoured the sceptical British stance too. It has all added up to an opportunity, which Mr Rifkind has skilfully taken, to launch a generally constructive IGC policy without ally constructive IGC policy without having it instantly consumed in the Tory Party's internal European frenzy.

Mr Rifkind's document is unmistakeably pro-European. It states without qualification that "The United Kingdom's role as a leading member of the European Union is vital to our national interest". Economically, the EU is "central to our success". Politically, it is "the basis upon which we must consoli-

The foreign secretary held the line in plenty of reasons for thinking that the by the white paper.

THE government's European white difficult part starts now. The most impaper is a more sensible document than portant of these is the power of unseemed possible not long ago, and it planned events to rupture even the enjoyed a tolerably smooth parliamen- plastic prose of the Foreign Office's finest drafters. The white paper offers a when the European intergovernmental robust (Mr Rifkind's overused word)

it is an exercise in national self-deception. It paints a vision of the European project which makes current sense in British domestic political terms (pro-viding that there is no huge Eurosceptic revolt) but which is hard to recognise elsewhere within the EU. Few other governments have to propitiate large Eurosceptical wings in their own parties. Few other countries are as "the basis upon which we must consolidate democracy and prosperity across the whole of Europe". In the Commons yesterday, Mr Rifkind said that Britain wants to be at the heart of the debate about the EU "because it is our future". The white paper is full of ifs and buts on point after point, yet the document and its presentation press forward in one direction only — a direction to which a significant minority of the parliamentary Conservative Party and a rather larger part of the party in the country are now obsessively opposed. troubled by the issues at stake in the country are now obsessively opposed. For the Europhobes who pressed for this white paper to be published it is a been willing to give Mr Rifkind his day yesterday, but there are rough times still to come over Europe, many of them the Commons yesterday, but there are on issues which are not even covered



Sustainable development in the UK remains a pipedream

tially according to the first "green audit" of sustainable development published yesterday. The Government undoubtedly deserves credit for deciding to release 120 environmental indicators to enable people in government and industry as well as the general public to assess progress made since the commitments made at the Earth Summit in 1992. These indicators will act as a continuous pressure for environmental improvement. As John Gummer, the Environment Secretary said yesterday, our economy must grow in a way which does not cheat on our children. The trouble with the audit is that it is cheating a bit with itself. Sad to say, most of the major improvements in sustainable development have either been inadvertent or forced on the Government by EU legislation. Thus the welcome improvements to the quality of freshwater and the sea were imposed by the European Commission. Emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from power stations have fallen by around 30 per cent since 1970. great. But this is mainly because of EU directives and pressure from European countries which suffered from the fallout while much of the rest was the unintended consequence of running down the coal industry. This led to the accelerated closure of pits and led to the construction of cleaner power stations through the so-called "dash-for-gas." In | brings deterioration.

WATER is getting cleaner, acid rain the countryside there has been a wel-has been reduced and noxious power come 33 per cent increase in the station emissions have fallen substan-amount of land covered by forests, but hedgerows are still being lost at the rate of 18,000 km every year.

In areas where the Government had it in its power to change things — like energy and pollution from cars - the situation has got dramatically worse. The economy as a whole has, commendably, become much more fuel efficient since the huge increase in world oil prices in the 1970s. This is reflected in the fact that UK energy consumption has remained constant since then while the whole economy (gross domestic product) has expanded by 60 per cent. But the cost of motoring has actually fallen in real terms by nearly 2 per cent since 1974 while bus fares have shot up by 55 per cent and rail fares by 71 per cent. Small wonder that our cities are becoming so congested. Millions of commuters now travel to work singly in cars, much of the time sitting still in traffic jams, instead of sharing a bus or train and using less fuel each per mile. As a result, amazingly, we actually travel far less for each gallon of petrol than we did in 1970 despite vast improvements in fuel efficiency. It would be extremely surprising if privatisation of the railways leads to sharp price reductions so, unless the Government attacks the motorist head on in an election year, sustainable development here will remain a pipedream. As the late Patrick Hutber remarked: progress

An unhappy counselling service

Relate and its President have split a no-fault divorce?

IF there is one organisation which the first charity to find itself misrepreshould not be embarrassed by a divorced patron it must surely be Relate, claims its comments were taken out of the marriage counselling service. If there is one organisation which should be sympathetic to a divorcing patron behaving in an aggrieved way, then surely it must be Relate. Many people going through the trauma of separation and divorce make wrong decisions. Hence this week's resignation of the President of Relate, Joanna Foster, because of reported remarks of senior Relate officers that they would not be inviting Princess Diana to functions in the coming months because of concern about her leaking details of her divorce negotiations, all makes sense. Above all else, counselling services must remain non-judgmental.

But like many marriage break-ups. the facts are not quite as simple as they look. Relate claims the Sunday Times story is totally untrue. It would not be rumours and hearsay perpetrate.

sented by that particular paper. Relate context — they were merely explaining there was no immediate plan to use Princess Diana because of her decision to withdraw from charity work. This quote was quite unjustifiably linked by the paper to the decision by the Princess to leak details of her divorce negotiations. Relate says this was a complete fabrication. There are two lessons which can be drawn: a need for robust rebuttals in a world in which there is so much media misrepresentation; and a review of its own internal communications. Why on earth did someone not get in touch with Joanna Foster and tell her the Sunday Times story was less than reliable? Relate should surely understand the importance of one-toone communication to counter and control the damage which whispers,



Letters to the Editor

An outcome of incomes Flick through history shows the

well argued case for incomes policy (Coming in on the money, March 11). He is absolutely correct to point out that there is simply no serious al-ternative to a renewed attempt by an incoming Labour Government to try to estab-lish a rational and rounded incomes policy if that Government is to have a hope of tackling the unemployment crisis.
No doubt the country needs

to be reminded that the in-comes policies of previous Labour governments — dat-ing back to Sir Stafford Cripps' post-war first attempt to combine a pay policy with full employment — were all far more effective than contemporary critics would have

Indeed, even the last attempt at incomes policy during the Wilson-Callaghan years, 1974-79, in the shape of the Social Contract, was much more successful for a time than is now acknowledged. The back down to 1975 edged. It broke down in 1978 following the Government's ill-advised attempt to impose a further 5 per cent norm after three years of quite remarkable achievement by

Fraud squad

HAT a refreshing the trade unions in their bid to help the Labour Govern-John Grieve Smith's ment. The fact is that the Callaghan government expected too much to be delivered by a trade union leadership whose trade union leadership whose authority was already under severe strain. To be sure, there were errors of judgement both by the unions and Labour Ministers. But far too little credit has been given, especially to the trade union leadership at that time, for the efforts and the achievements in the three years before the dreaded Winter of Discontent.

Of course, it is an excep-

Of course, it is an excep-tionally difficult road to tread: an incomes policy, to have any chance of success in modern times, must cover the modern times, must cover the broadest range of social and economic policy. But surely it is time to re-think the strat-egy and relevance of incomes policy and John Grieve Smith's proposal of a forum of Government and the two sides of industry — though not a new idea — is well worth exploring. Geoffrey Goodman. Head of Labour Government's

Counter Inflation Unit (1975-1976)

TELEVISION

STUDIOS

OHN Grieve Smith is right to warn today's Labour policy-makers that pay policy can no longer be avoided if a Labour govern-ment is to seriously tackle

unemployment.
The Conservatives have achieved pay restraint but at a price and by means which are surely unacceptable to a left-of-centre government. Labour is deluded if it believes it will not face formidable inflationary pressures in the wake of an election

As the 1978-1979 pay disaster unfolded, I pioneered a personal initiative (I was then an Employment Minister) which secured the support of the leaders of a dozen of our biggest unions. It included a number of proposals on vol-uniary pay policy, not least a forum for talks between gov-ernments, unions and emeriments, unions and em-ployers to set guidelines or, as we called it, "an indicative norm." But Labour went on to abandon incomes policy, ig-noring and distorting its ad-vantages in helping those on low incomes. John Grant.

Upper Street, Kingsdown, Deal, Kent CT14 8BH.

past catching up with the present

In the 1970s, the firm chan-nelled large sums of money, disguised as tax-deductible charitable donations, to several leading German politi-cians in order to secure mas-sive tax breaks on the sale of

shares in American firms. Dr Friedrich Karl Flick could not be shown to have ordered these transactions and was not charged, but the firm undoubtedly benefited from them, and its managing director Eberhard von Brau-chitsch was sentenced to a

THE statement that Flick has an "entirely honourable present" (Leader, March 12) would surprise anyone familiar with the largest scandal of recent German history.

The 1970s that firm changest and the firm of imprisonment in 1987. As was noted at the time, the payments were in line with the traditions of the house, which had given money to stress and the firm of imprisonment in 1987. Stresemann and others in the 1920s and to Goering in the

As in its use of slave labour from 1939 to 1945, its resistance to compensation for surviving slaves after the war, and its misuse of tax-de-ductible donations to secure political influence, the firm was not unique. But there's still a difference between being entirely normal and being entirely honourable. (Prof) Timothy Reuter.

Difficulties with boys

or do interesting things when the tapes were off as on. Nobody is sadder than I that my diary turned into a record of Kingsley's dying.
The current unpleasantness

the trouble to answer a letter I wrote him in January, in which I asked what I should say if people inquired why I | London N8.

MARK LAWSON'S plece question of privacy, March 12) may give the impression that I started a journal solely to record the last weeks of Sir Kingsley Amis's life. In fact, I started it months earlier, when Kingsley proposed we do a book together based on tape-recorded conversations. The diary was intended to The diary was intended to For my part, I think it rather a flesh out the tapes, since pity that his father never pubwork. No doubt Kingsley kept quiet out of a decent paternal tact. Or it may be that he felt himself unqualified on ac-count of his difficulty in reading his son's novels to the end. between Martin Amis and my-self over the diary might have been avoided if he had taken Perhaps it's time I beat it back to Fleet Street where everyone seems much nicer. Eric Jacobs,

Filling you in

YOUR report (Dentists drop 1 million patients, March 12) does not reflect the true situation. In England today, there are nearly 26 million pa-tients registered with NHS dentists. Allowing for the improvement in Dental Board procedures to remove duplicate registrations and the annual roll-off of children, total registrations are broadly in line with the July 1, 1992 level. The claim that one patient is deregistered every two minutes is meaningless because it takes no account of registrations. Gerald Malone. Minister for Health,

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS.

Not guilty

YOUR report on Caroline Beale's repairiation in cluded the words "that led her to kill her child" (Jailed This is wrong. A large body of international experts on pathology and psychiatry were ready to testify in her defence. All agreed she was suffering from a psychiatric illness. There was no evidence of an unnatural death. If the case had come to trial. we feel confident she would have been acquitted. Ian Brockington. Professor of Psychiatry. University of Birmingham. John Emery. Emeritus Professor of Paediatric Pathology, University of Sheffield.

children, Nicky and Mary) have the opportunity to be happy, those without (Geordie, the joyrider, the policeman) can forget it. Is that it, then? Can we do nothing to change society at least **A Country Diary**

TAMAR VALLEY: Days are lengthening fast and the light is increasingly bright across drab pastures. The first daffodils include double lent lilies was once so fruitful. Where with brilliant yellow, fat buds, streaked with green and growing on short stems. These were once grown com-mercially and the dainty, vivid, flowers must have cheered thousands when their brief flowering season coincided with Mothering Sunday. They survive in only a few derelict market gardens where clumps of flowers poke up through flattened, shriv-elled bracken fronds with brambles. An adjoining stand of later Helios shows tightly ised underneath the veneer of hazels with othre and hrowna caring Catholic community. ing catkins. Mossy apple trees Name and address supplied. are covered with berried ivy.

bracken and brambles are shaded out by regenerating hazel, blackthorn, willow and oak Heart's-tongue, ferns with winter-dulled leaves grow in leafmould scattered with empty nut shells and patches of primrose. This market garden, productive until the 1950s, was staked out with small leisure plots just over 30 years ago. Some were sold through adverts in the national press and those lucky enough to obtain the few reachable sites arrived with their tent or caravan for a few idyllic holidays. As the novelty wore off and the land became overgrown and more inaccessible, fewer returned. Only one flat patch, beside the track, is now visited regularly, the grass cut and bushes pared back. Across the stream, steep ground has reverted to woodland, the beneficiary of isolation and neglect by far-flung owners.
VIRGINIA SPIERS

far more alarming than your report suggests (Huge rent rises loom as benefit pay-ments cut, March 12). Voters in Haringey bave every reason to be proud that their council is waging a premier campaign against what is serious criminal fraud. This fraud — in the housing

ARINGEYS findings are

benefit system — is massive and conducted largely by landlords or their agents. It is not Haringey who should be pillorled, but those boroughs who do next to nothing to combat the large-scale finan-cial fraud of the benefit sys-tem. The Social Security Select Committee will be highlighting these boroughs in its next report.

Haringey is surveying every landlord who has more than 30 payments of housing benefit made direct into his or her bank account. I cited the survey of the first 16 such landlords. More than \$6.8 million has been paid to these 16 individuals: of this, £1.2million had been fraudulently claimed. Amongst this group are housing benefit million-aires, ie landlords who gain Elmillion or more a year in housing benefit payments.

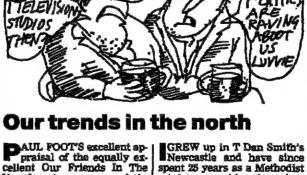
Following pressure from the Select Committee, the Government has announced a new drive against fraud. In his statement the Secretary of State appeared obsessed with claimant fraud. Such fraud is wrong. But the point of Mon-day's debate was that, with limited resources at any one time to fight fraud, it was in the taxpayers' interests that these resources were used most effectively, ie against landlord housing benefit

Frank Field MP. House of Commons London SWIA OAA.

(OLUNTARY donations to V the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children did not fall last year. In fact, they rose by £2.2 million. The NSPCC depends on donations and the public continues to respond to this need magnificently. Jim Harding. Director, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road,

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

London EC2A 3NH



minister, working in urban communities in the North

(mostly in Poulson's West Riding) which have been con-sistently disempowered by

London-based financial insti-tutions and their political

friends. It was good to have 30

years of political history "be-yond Westminster" reflected

THE final episode was pro-foundly depressing in its rejection of politics. Those with families (Tosker and the

ing to change society at large, and only seek personal

MY brother attended Ampleforth during the 1960s and, at the age of nine, some-

thing happened to him which

with such realistic force. (Rev) Geoff Reid.

30 Merton Road, Bradford BD1 7RE.

satisfaction? Ed Horton.

Oxford OX4 4BU.

Our trends in the north

praisal of the equally ex-cellent Our Friends In The North misses one subtle nuance of the corrupt socialism upon which much of the drama bases its emotional grip (Friends I am missing already, March 11). He de-scribes John Poulson as a builder; the story has the Labour councillor conspiring with a Tory builder. The real-ity was more sordid. Poulson was an architect, a

contemporary and brother-in-arts of such paragons as Sir Richard Rogers and Sir Nor-man Foster. Post-Thatcher market-place morality has ar-chitecture ducking and diving for a living with the rest of business, but in the sixties professional standards were still mercilessly imposed. The involvement of John Poulson in the scandals of the period sent a shudder of distrust and revulsion through the profes-sion from which many believe it has never recovered. Brian Green.

Mistletoe Farm, Willingham, Cambridge CB4 5JF.

Suicide reaches a critical mass

ASUICIDE is a personal tragedy, not a public controversy (Smells, bells and scandals, March 9). The monks at Ampleforth Abbey, the relatives and friends of Father Benjamin O'Sullivan, are still stunned by their loss. As a parent of a boy in the school. I wish that Maggie O'Kane had paid more than a fleeting visit to Ampleforth, and placed less reliance on unattributed comments of some old boys. Had she been at mass in the Abbey church last Sunday, she might have understood a little better how a community of love, focused with humility on a loving God, can give mutual support in adversity. Helen Rose

De Freville Avenue,

Cambridge CB4.

was never fully explained but involved a monk who was subsequently moved elsewhere. My brother grew into an unhappy and isolated adult and committed suicide at the age of 35. His suicide leaves and yellow buds dispose made a direct reference to the school, indicating that it was that experience which first led him to feel suicinal.
Suicide is a complex issue, and it would be simplistic to snowdrops were also cuitivated, picked and bunched for vated, picked and bunched for and full-out flowers was helpful to see your article. I suspect my brother the low hedgebanks of tiny was not the only child brutal-fields, shaded by sprawling

Diary

Matthew Norman

AD to relate, my friend Mandy Man-delson has been in the wars once again. First, he Patsy Prescott, who thrilled last week's Scottish Labour conference by confusing Mandy's new book with the Chinese satellite: "The fastest spin since the launch of my friend Peter Mandelson's book . . . this giant piece of junk," said Patsy, then climaxing the mirth by adding that he meant the satel-lite, not the book. With that wound still raw, Mandy then had to fight off an attempt to plant consumer spokesman Nigel Griffiths in his vital "rapid rebuttal" unit. "I am not," said Mandy imperiously, "having that man in my Mill-bank." The batred goes back to the time when Mr Griffiths — a devotee of Gordon Brown — publicly savaged Mandy for beginpaign while John Smith's body was barely cold. This latest flare-up is odd, none theless, for it is hardly in character for Mandy to nurture a grudge.

AILY Express Cherie-hunter Peter Cherie-numer L. Hitchens calls, to dispute my assertion that. while an International Socialist, he wore a beard say he did. He says he didn't, and I rejoin that he did. We are the Socrates and Plato de nos jours. 'Look," he says quietly, "I've had two beards in my life, and I know what a beard is. What I had in your photo is not a beard." It seems we will never agree — and so, in order that a

The cost of going it alone in Europe

Commentary

Hutton

centre of gravity of Brit-ish politics. Europe should be a partnership of nation states. The gains of 40 years of European integration should not be thrown away, certainly, and where there are grounds for friendly collaboration it should be under taken. But the clock should now stop on anything more visionary.
Malcolm Rifkind, present

ing the Government's white paper on its stance for the Intergovernmental Conference to the House of Commons yes terday, defined a position that was nlumb centre in the rows that rack the Conservative Party — while tacking back from some of his more Eurosceptic remarks to adopt a more pro-European tone. The bedrock of the European Union might be the independent democratic state, as John Major says in the document's foreword — but that has not prevented the Goveroment from backing, if guardedly, the idea of a "single figure to represent the areas in which it is perfectly foreign policy of the Union to healthy for some member the outside world". Quite a states to integrate more

concession from an administration beleagured by Euros-cepticism and now Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party. But the basic thrust

remains an undying commitment to intergovernmentalism, the sanctity of the nation state's powers over de-fence and foreign policy, and the case against extending majority voting — a position that Robin Cook was careful not to oppose. He was as much for the nation state as his counterpart, while managing to open up some red water between Labour and the Gov-ernment over employment and social legislation. But in truth there was not much core to go on; Labour has no intention of being labelled as Brussels' poodle, so that it is compelled to find merit in the Government's position. That in turn draws its sting in the areas where it does want to

ties should be cautious about congratulating themselves on establishing a position which while selling the pass on the case for European integration is still sufficiently pro-European to inflame the ranks of the Euro-sceptics — thus successfully pleasing nobody. For Europe, however reluc-For Europe, however reluc-tantly and unwanted, finds itself playing for very high stakes at the IGC. The notion, quietly promoted in the white paper, that "there may be areas in which it is perfectly

Yet Britain's political par-

member of the EU would be able to qualify in 1999, and thus the beginning of multispeed Europe was launched. The IGC, with Britain's connivance, will elevate it as the new principle around which Europe should constructed. Thus to argue for Europe as a partnership of nation states completely dodges the issue which will be at the heart of closely or quickly than others", will be picked up by the Germans who reluctantly have come round to the same

view. A Europe constructed

as a series of initiatives

which, once in place become

acquis communautaire -

community gains — is to be

ettisoned. In its place a new

Europe is emerging in which a pace-setting group of nations will define the struc-

ture of Europe, which others

Yet the reality for most European states is that not

being part of this construc-tion is not a conceivable op-

tion. This is partly a matter of sheer practicality given the

range of issues that require

some standing secreteriat to

propose common solutions, the functional reason for

Brussels' existence; and partly about the shrinking

capacity in today's world of the celebrated nation state to

achieve what it wants on its

Yet at just this moment

Europe is moving from being

built by consensus to a new

model which will allow it to be built by the instincts of its

most pro-European members

and that means Germany.
 This represents a transforma-

tion in European politics, and

nobody can be certain that it can be executed with the old

ethos of pro-Europeanism being kept alive. It will be div-

sive before it is integrative.

The breach was already

made at Maastricht, not only

because Britain negotiated its

an then take or leave.

the IGC. Liberated from the necessity from moving Europe forward as one, the Germans and the French, with the Dutch, Austrians Belgians, Irish, Italians, Pinns, Spainish and even Swedes actively helping, will set about brokering the deal that is at the heart of the single currency. Germany will surrender the D-Mark only if there is change in the

ter and the single currency, but in addition because of the

nature of the convergence cri-teria for monetary union. It

was never likely that every

To argue for Europe as a partnership of nation states completely dodges the issue

process of political integra-tion — and that is the implicit

agenda of the IGC. For it is not only British Eurosceptics who have noted that there is a crisis of legitimacy of European institu-tions, Michael Mertes, one of the Chancellor Kohl's closest advisers, is on record as say-ing that it is difficult for the new Europe to be democratic, because there is no European democratic public — no European demos. But as Michael Maclay, a former adviser to Douglas Hurd, writing in this month's edition of Prospect

rather it is to find ways of accelerating it.

given the new environment i risks being confronted by a de derogations from the changes to the new institutions; but it will not be allowed to veto what a majority of the other states choose to do.

attentions of a politically ambitious billionaire.

delusion and false premise

were never good guides to policy. Now they are the new Gods, but they will lead to isolation in a world in which the US is no longer a reliable ally — with costs that the British are neither ready nor

Britain does hold some cards. It can block develop-ment of the European parlia-ment and it can insist that any initiatives that draw on the European budget have to be agreed unanimously — but unless it gives some ground facto European ultimatum. It will be offered opt-outs and

Striking a new tone and of fering a few concessions will not avert a crisis that in some respects is as dangerous as permitting Sir James Goldsmith's obsessions over Europe to effect a new direc-tion in British national policy — yet another extraordinary development in the deformed structure that is Britain's poittical system. The parliamen-tary sovereignty that the white paper invites us to de-fend to the last is one so fragile that it can be snared by the

Lack of knowingness about what is happening abroad is thus matched by self-deception about what is happening at home. A British white paper that is as uninhibitedly partisan — for example talk-ing dismissively of many continental politicians who press for "more Europe ... and corporatist economic solutions to the perceived defilutions to the perceived defi-ciencies of the free market" — degrades the very notion of a white paper. The British state plumbs new lows. Self-

prepared to pay.

The US is at war with its own people, incarcerating the vanquished: but this is not the way to tackle crime — either there or in Britain, argues **Andrew Rutherford**

Enemy behind bars



ling reason to quit smoking comes from the pro-smoking pressure group Forest. It will hold "a smoker-friendly weekend break" in Dorchester in May, and if the prospect of spending 48 hours marooned among these profes-sional martyrs and pseudo civil libertarians doesn't do the trick, consider this: the Saturday night gala dinner will be hosted by the gifted comedian Jack Douglas.

TILL feeling blue is my dieting friend Terry Major-Ball, who cites the prospect of publicising his book (Major Major, out in paperback in May) as one reason for the gloom. "Some shows are fine, but some try to make you look sturid" says. you look stupid," says Terry. "I've been asked on the Big Breakfast a few times, but how can you talk when they keep pushing those puppets in your face? Maybe I'm old fashioned," he continues, "but I do know how to have fun. Richard Madely of Good Morning — he's married to Judy; she's a very nice lady — said I had a rather zany sense of humour." Terry pauses for thought. "The trouble," he adds, "Is that there are so many fine lines this gnomically rhetorical note, we say farewell.

Not qualit

* = . . .

m. 1 Y.

> **NEWSPAPER** advert seeks people aged be-tween 26-30 and keen to change careers, "who can rise to the challenge of the television equivalent of an MBA"; people with a craving for "unrivalled insight and experience in television production and broadcasting". The employer is Live TV, and the most attractive feature of the job is that, for the first year of an 18-month contract, the salary is £0.00. How on earth can the BBC hope to compete?



S THE primary elections gather pace, Americans are being asked to soundbites and platitudes and seriously consider crime and criminal policy. The Real War On Crime, the report of the independent National Criminal Justice Commission, has created one of those rare opportunities for people to reflect upon choices which have until now been largely obscured by the demagogic ratcheting of this key political issue: in particular, the unnrecedented quantum leap in the number of people in

After 75 years of relative stability in the proportion of the population behind prison bars, in the sarly 1980s the United States embarked upon an experiment in mass incarceration. The bare statistics tell the story: in 1980 the com-bined local, state and federal prison population was 493,000; in 1985 it was 759,000; in 1990 it was 1,179,000 and in 1995 it was 1,544,000. Whereas in 1980 the prison population translated into a rate of 210 per 100,000 inhabitants the rate today is 555. This figure, which is very close to that of Russia, contrasts with Canada at 116, and is some seven times greater than the me-dian rate for western Euro-pean countries. Furthermore, the racial dimension to the American prison scene can-not be avoided: the incarceration rate is 306 per 100,000 for whites compared with 1,947 for blacks. In many American cities one third of black males aged 18-34 are either in prison or under parole or probation

supervision. But this experiment is far from drawing to a close. A spate of recent federal and state criminal justice statutes reflecting notions such as "three strikes and you're out" and "truth in sentencing" are just beginning to take affect. One independent research group has estimated that the combined impact of this recent legislation (together with one or two other initiatives) may well add a further six million to the total number in prison. It is no wonder that a leading Norwegian criminologist, Nils Christle (a commission member), has warned of the rapidly approaching American gulag. These developments have taken place in the virtual ab-sence of principled debate and informed public discussion. Indeed, for elected officials, dissent around this issue is widely regarded as

political suicide. The 34-member commission, funded from non-governmental sources, worked for two years to produce this powerful indictment of American criminal policy. By demonstrating that there is little, if any, connection between prison population size and the level of crime, Americans may be persuaded to ponder upon the fiscal and social costs of the current agenda. Many state governments are cation and welfare in order to prison context... it appears | enhanced; racial and ethnic | programmes. The Eisen- | paperback



spends 8 per cent of its budget on prisons, compared with 3 per cent 15 years ago; state spending on further educa-tion over this period fell from 18 to 8 per cent. Estimating the social costs is more complex, but Joanne Page (a com-mission member, and direc-tor of the Fortune Society, an ex-offender organisation) compares the impact of im-prisonment to post-traumatic stress disorder. As the report puts it: "Many offenders emerge from prison afraid to trust, fearful of the unknown, and with their vision of the world shaped by the meaning diverting resources from edu- that behaviours have in the

fund their burgeoning prison | prison damages a person's | blases must be eliminated system. In California, for eximid-range response to the enample, the state currently vironment, leaving the choice | cess; all levels of government of gritting one's teeth and enduring, or full-fledged attack to protect oneself from perceived danger."

But the report goes beyond a critique of imprisonment, and the commission has constructed a series of steps which lead to its "20/30 vision" of a safer and more humane society. These steps include: the war on drugs, which has had devastating collateral consequences, must be replaced with a policy of harm-reduction; fiscal impact statements should be a requirement of all criminal policy proposals; services for the victims of crime must be

cess; all levels of government should create crime preven-tion councils charged with the duty of developing coordinated strategies which meet requirements; and a public not to declare a war and win health approach should be developed to reduce the level of violence in America. As the lasting reconciliation." director of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention puts it: "Violence is the leading cause of lost life in this

The commission also urged the nation to reverse current policies and to invest in a new generation of anti-poverty

hower Foundation (whose ex-ecutive director, Lynn Curtis is a commission member) has estimated that \$30 billion (rather less than one third of the total spent annually on criminal justice) would be each year over the next decade to revitalise ur-

ban areas across the nation. The urgent message of The opted for aspects of the American way. He has, for example, explicitly endorsed much of the path towards mass incarceration. His forthcoming. and much-trailed, white paper will propose "two-strikes" life sentences as the only disposition by the court for a second conviction for an offence where life is the maxi-mum penalty, a further straight-jacketing of the judi-ciary by means of mandatory minimum sentences for speci-fied offences and the virtual elimination of early rele indeed, the white paper is the final nail in the coffin of calm and constructive approaches to these issues which characterised the late 1980s, and also signals the complete abandon-ment of a post-war consensus that prison population size be regarded as subject to limits, regarded as subject to limits, however loosely defined these might have been. It is estimated, by the Penal Affairs Consortium, that Mr Howard's plans (upon which Labour's position is awaited) will add 28,000 to the present percent prison population in record prison population in England and Wales. Should this come about, and if pres-ent levels of growth were to continue, the millennium would be marked by a prison population rate which, in effect, was no longer in the European league but taking its place alongside Singapore.

Finally, Michael Howard (and Jack Straw for that matter) should worst about a ter) should worry about a report which reminds Americans that criminal policy lies at the very heart of how a nation defines itself.

The Real War On Crime must be shifted from an agenda of "war" to one of "peace". The commission firmly rejects the populist politics of exclusion which dominate American criminal policy. In its concluding words, the report states: "The enemy in this war is our own people. A war against the American people is a war that nobody can win. It brings hostility and division; it exhausts our resources and sape our moral strength. The goal is

Andrew Rutherford is Professor of Law at Southampton University and chair of the country today. If it's not a Howard League for Penal public health problem, why are all those people dying European members of the National Criminal Justice Commission. The Real War On Crime is published this week by \$40 hardcover and \$15

is rather different from the British; it is not to turn back from political integration roundabouts for statues



LD FRIENDS of Harold

David McKie

Wilson are angry at the suggestion that a statue to be erected in his honour in Huddersfield might be sited at the entry to a line great Victorian city loading bay, on a multi-storey car park, or even aboard a M62. Even political opponents agree such schemes are an insult: "If you are going to recognise a bloke for what's he's done," says one Conser-vative, "it ought to be in St George's Square, where people can see." The football alternative, since Harold was a famous supporter of Hudderstield Town FC. But in the days of Wilsonian heroes like Hesford, Willingham and Boot they played on the old Leeds Road ground, not today's dazzling hi-tech McAl-pine Stadium. Harold, one eels, would have favoured somewhere more homely.

in the sense that to have any force, an insult must be known to the insultee. that hardly applies with stat-ues, unless they're erected in the subject's lifetime, which few of them are. Even so, one can't help, for instance, feel-ing for poor Prince Albert, less because of the obloquy heaped on the Albert Memo-rial than for what he is having to suffer at the other end of town. When the statue of Prince Albert on horseback was put up at Holborn Circus, he would have been raising his hat to that quarter's nobility and gentry. Later on the gesture would have been mostly addressed to people shopping at Gamage's department store. Now all be salut are the cars and buses and lorries which whirl about under his feet. Albert has become a mere roundabout.

these statues? How many who pass them every day notice them, could tell you who they are and why they are there?

In the middle of the City towns than crown some feet of the city towns than crown the country of the city towns than crown the country related to the city towns than crown the country related to the city towns than crown the country related to the city towns than crown the city to th that when workmen were sent to clean them, tent-like creations were wrapped the public appearing to finger the sensual bits. People know it's the Black Prince, and usu-

that was known as the Lion-

It mystified me as a child what the Black Prince was doing in Leeds, a place which historians suggested never bothered him much in his lifetime. Officialdom explained at the time when they put him up (1903) that the prince was supposed to evoke chivalry, good government. the patronage of arts and edu-cation, the encouragement of

In a great Victorian city like Leeds you might have expected the Queen Empress to dominate what, before most of the central area was surrendered to traffic, was one of the most successful squares of the town. In fact, occupies her former privi-leged place near the Town Hall. She's been exiled to Woodhouse Moor, and now gazes out on a tract of land best known as the mustering group she ever sought to en-courage — together with the Leeds City Council Fitness and Jogging Trail. Victoria, in this case, is by George James Frampton, other of whose Victorias can be seen in Southend, St Helens, New-castle, Calcutta and

HE Black Prince is by Thomas Brock, who de-signed the Victoria Memorial outside Buckingham Place (another roundabout), and her statue at Hove. As a general rule, if you were any good you got asked to do Queen Victoria. Alfred Drury. creator of the Black Prince's acolytes Morn and Even, did her at Portsmouth and Bradford. There are said to be at least 150 Victorias in exisof which 40 are in India. I gather Leeds is planning

to celebrate the millennium with a further crop of statues like Marks and Spencer. I hope they will also find room son, its pioneering chairman of housing, and John Charles. the finest Leeds United footballer of my lifetime. Statues of local worthies add more to the life of our great provincial Real War on Crime, however, Square, Leeds, there's a who rarely visited. No town extends beyond the US. statue of the Black Prince, square or public park in the square or public park in the North is complete with at least one statue raised by pub-Michael Howard is not the only British politician to have opted for aspects of the American way. He has, for exametration by the city authorities of the American way. He has, for exametration by the city authorities of the American way. long-serving member of per-liament. Like Sir Francis Sharp Powell, Bt, born Wigan. around them so that artisan 1827, the town's Tory MP hands should not be seen by from 1857 to 1859 and again out across the broad and tranit's the Black Prince, and usu-ally seem quite content to have him there. "That's the others more glorious than he Black Prince, Edward I." I may be doomed to suffer, he once heard a proud citizen at least is safe from being telling a gaggle of visitors, reduced to a roundabout.

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Published by the European Medical Journal

Alison McCartney

Getting through together

ence last October she described not just the process of "getting through" advanced cancer but using her illness as a vehicle for change.

"I am 45, I'm a pathologist, I'm married to a GP, and unprimary breast cancer. I went straight to stage IV — straight to fourth base. I wakened up one morning in 1994 and found my liver was full of tumour and life has never been the same since. I went through a period of pain and isolation, of feeling nobody really understands... I have three children; my littlest one is two. So when it came to discussing my very imminent death, my first thoughts were inevitably what am I going to tell the children and how in

God's name am I going to get through this lot?" With classically calm assurance, she charted a voyage of investigation, undertaken with the rigour that informed all of her research. She identi-fled the inadequacy of the support and information for women with secondary can-cer and her efforts led her to

His controlled studies joined small mutual support groups not only experienced an enhanced quality of life but also survived longer.

died aged 94, was sancti-fled or damned by his being associated with some of the

made. Certainly it was sancti-

fied by those schlock suckers

who scavenge in the dustbins

of cinema history for their

stolid, humourless features, Talbot was born for B-movies.

Better performers look awk

ward or pathetic in mediocre material but the rather

wooden Talbot was in his

element. A-movie stars give the impression of slumming while the best B-movle stars

never betray any doubts

about the screenplay.

Born Lisle Henderson, he

started in show business di-

rectly out of high school, tour-

ing with his parents in tent shows as a magician. He then

started acting in stock, found-

ing his own company. The Talbot Players, before enter-

At Warners, his best roles

were as a hoodlum in Love Is A Racket (1932) and as a con-

vict who leads a prison break in 20,000 Years In Sing Sing

(1933), but his attempt to play

romantic leads at other

studios — opposite Carole Lombard in No More Orchids

(1933) and Grace Moore in

One Night Of Love (1935) -

was less convincing. He was more at ease in The 13th Guest (1932) as a detective in

an old dark house trying to find the killer who electro-cutes people by telephone. It

ing films in 1932.

With his thickset figure and

Lvie Talbot

Alison After visiting Spiegel in San ney, Francisco and seeing some of the groups in action, Alison McCartney set about establishing a similar network of women in London.

She met with significant resistance from within the ranks of her own profession. from the dismissal of the idea as morbid to the old saw that as notified to the dat saw hat a British people don't like talk-ing about emotions. But she had always been a determined and single-minded

woman. Alison's Group, as it is now called started last year and is still going strong. With the help of a wonderful breast care counselling nurse, the women meet and discuss work, chemotherapy, hair loss, their children, their menfolk and, hardest of all, they talk about dying. Hearing about Alison's

plans for a support group, Clare Walmsley, an independent television producer, per-suaded Channel 4 to commission a documentary about the idea, with Alison's experience

The programme Alive And Kicking was transmitted last Health series to coincide with breast cancer awareness month. It was not only a mov-ing and inspiring document: it also stimulated the publicacan psychiatrist who had worked with terminally ill women in the advanced stage of the disease.

on breast cancer. The long term impact of Alison's campaigning is that all the main breast cancer special needs of patients with advanced disease and are put-

Sincerely safe with schlock

er. Arst as Lo-

retta Young's dull, conserva-

tive flance in Second Honey

moon (1937), who is pushed

overboard and then towed out

to sea by a sting ray, and in

Henie's vokel swain.

cond Fiddle (1939) as Sonja

T IS difficult to know whether the screen career of Lyle Talbot, who has died aged 94, was sanctided or damned by his being sociated with some of the sociated with sociated with some of the sociated with some of the sociated w

Thankfully, however, for that Edward D Wood Jr



Alison McCartney . . . used her own illness as a vehicle for change

support.
Alison McCartney was a beautiful, accomplished woman. She was Girton educated. a brilliant medical student at Barts, a consultant pathologist by 32, with a stunning track record in medical research and medical teaching, culminating in a doctor-ate. A professorship was only a breath away. She had a happy marriage of 20 years duration to Peter McCartney.

Lex Luther in Atom Man vs

Superman (1950). He then

played heavies in a couple of Jungle Jim adventures star-

ring a safari-suited Johnny Weissmuller — he was by

then too fleshy for a loin cloth.

It was in the early fifties

ting in place the required a general practitioner, and support.

Alison McCartney was a Her illness left all of us who knew and loved her, despairing at the waste of so much talent and goodness.

She had sat as a school governor and was one of the youngest justices of the peace. She sang wonderfully, especially at parties. Some of us were the beneficiaries of her sewing talents. She painted well and occasionally in-dulged her love of art with an

cast as Police Ins

ren investigating the suicide of the hero/heroine. He then

appeared in Wood's stun-

ningly bad Jail Bait (1955) and Plan 9 From Outer Space

(1966). In the latter, starring the dead Bela Lugosi. Talbot

played an army general in a

tiny Washington office. "When Ed Wood paid me," he

commented, "it was always in cash and in singles." "Lyle, I

won't give you a cheque, it might bounce," he would

say."
As very few people saw
these films in their day —

they would run a few days at

grind houses and disappear until unearthed by cultists years later — Talbot's face was widely recognised in the US from his television appearances in 140 episodes of the hugely popular The Adventures Of Ozzie And Harriet, in which he played the

riet, in which he played the Nelsons' next-door neighbour.

Talbot was married four times, and leaves four chil-dren. He was one of the founders of the Screen Actors

Guild, and continued to work

on TV into his eighties. But

whatever else he did, Lyle Talbot's equivocal legacy will be his place in "the foul rag-

Lyle Talbot (Liste Henderson), kim actor. born February 8, 1902;

and -bone shop" of cinema.

Ronald Bergan

extravagant purchase. Yet ever, one of her driving con-alongside her flair and glam-our, her intellectual drive and should be learned from the focus, she had a surprising ethereal quality, which made her a very restful companion and ready confidente.

When Alison's illness was diagnosed, she faced what time remained to her with determination and fortitude, conscious that she had not achieved all that she had hoped and desperate about leaving her children. How-

David Godwin

one but David would have

gang members — factory

worker and forester, he was a

founder member of the Scot-tish Council for Civil Liber-

In 1977 he and I became the

SCCL's first employees and

he led the organisation for the

next 10 years, during which time it became an effective

voice on such issues as pris-

oners' rights, the administra-

tion of justice, legal services, children's rights and the civil

liberty implications of nu-

clear power.

To each issue he brought formidable analysis and argument and an ability to think

about law creatively. It was

Godwin who virtually resur

rected the old Scottish legal

remedy, lawburrows, to pro-tect women from violent

partners.
His thinking, for instance

about the potentially intru-sive powers of social work au-thorities, was often far in ad-

vance of its time. And in 1967, when the Government banned BBC Scotland's film

about the Zircon spy satellite,

ne put his belief in freedom of

speech into action and orga-nised a public showing of a

pirated copy. He also deployed formida

ble skills as a strategist and negotiator, never losing sight

ties in the late 1960s.

cerns was that something should be learned from the way her life ended. What she lieve was that so much could also be learned from the way her life was lived.

Helena Kennedy

sought after man.

Alison McCartney, pathologis and breast cancer awareness campaigner, bom March 31,

authority; "Mr Godwin of the civil liberties" was a much acy. Anyone could join, pro-vided that they broke their

organisations, such as the emergent Scottish Asian considerable. Political labels did not hang asily on him. He was a free-

thinker, a respecter of no or thodoxy, a believer in the right to be different. But his idiosynctacies, eccentricities and general non-conformity did not endear him to everyone. After a bitter internal struggle he was removed from his SCCL post in 1987.

The assistance he gave freely and unfailingly to other

tial damages for unfair dismissal, many believe he never recovered. He worked as a welfare rights officer in Avrshire and carried on his own independent civil liberties work

Paul Gordon

of principle but not paralysed David Godwin by it either. He was particu-larly adept at making alli-David Godwin, civil libertarian, born February 9, 1944; died Feb-

into a restaurant, and note

Life and liberty AVID Godwin, who has died aged 52, was a leading force in the struggle for civil liberties in Scotland. A sometime teacher, youth worker — no one but David would have

weapons on arrival in the compound, snapping their Ra-

gat, the currency of the war-lords. Elman provided shelter

Birthdays Valerie Amos, former chief executive, Equal Opportuni-ties Commission, 42; Lord Although an industrial tri-bunal awarded him substan-(Gordon) Borrie QC, chair man, Labour's Commission on Social Justice, 65; Jane Bown, photographer, 71; Sir Michael Checkland, former director-general, BBC, 60; Lesley Collier, ballet dancer,

But to speak of David Godwin only in terms of his work is to portray only part of the mushroom gatherer, drinker, thinker, lover of Beethoven, husband to Caryl, father to Anna and Pippa, and friend to

Murdered in Mogadishu

welding machine, an air com-

"We have a lot of technicians

in Mogadishu. If you are a

on the walting list and El-

man's fame was spreading: young women came to the Pro-ject to learn to write: orphans.

some as young as five or six,

came seeking shelter; mothers brought children they were

unable to feed. Returning to the project shortly before mid-

night one night. Elman found a two-week-old beby abandoned at the gate. He found a home for the child with a

His enthusiasm

was infectious.

uncomplicated:

we want peace

in the war. Elman turned to the UN for

help; the reception left him fuming. They told ms: You are not authorised to do this

net wider, confident that a

chapter was ending and "95 per cent of the people want

peace". He cajoled hundreds of metres of white cloth from Oxfam and hung white flags

from every lamp-post in Moga-dishu. He covered Mogadi-shu's main street in graffiti several feet high. His anthusi-aam was infectious, his mes-

asm was injectious, his mes-sage characteristically uncom-plicated: we want peace.

Little has been heard of So-malia since the UN pulled out.

taking most of its equipment with it and wrecking the rest, compassionless to the end.

Cursory news reports from

Mogadishu say Elman was killed by masked gunmen, possibly General Aideed's

irrepressible Eiman being

forced off the streets and into

a terrible commentary on the

operation in UN history.

legacy of the most expensive

pressor and a basic tool kit. His philosophy was simple:

OGADISHU in the early nineties was a frightening place, volatile and unpretable. But Elman Ali Ahdictable But Elman Ali Ahmed seemed to have a charmed life: he was threatened, but never harmed; his workshops, packed with tens of thousands of dollars of equipment, were unlocked but good technician you can gen-never looted Driving around Mogadishu with him, in a bright yellow hanger that de-warlords." By 1994 when I first met him, the Gunman Project had fied all the laws of locomotion, one felt part of the magic cir-cle. Somehow invulnerable. disarmed 275 young men. An-other 300 were attending " classes. Hundreds more were

Elman Ali Ahmed

Now Elman has been mur-dered aged 42 and Mogadishu has lost not just one of its most colourful characters, but also one of its most effective. For Elman did what the United Nations, for all its billions of dollars, never attempted to do: he weared hundreds of young men off the gun and gave them a measure of dignity by making it possible for them to earn an honest living. His pitch to the tired. me for them to earn an honest living. His pitch to the tired, desperate teenagers he at-tracted off the streets was simple: "If you go with the warlords, you will probably be killed. If you come with ma, I will be by your you will be able to get married, have children, get a good job. Today you don't know how to write your his message name. Tomorrow, perhaps, you could be president."

Elman was a harlequin fig-ure, with none of the sententiousness that the epithet "peace activist" would sug-gest. To the young people with whom he worked he was parent and teacher, critic and counsellor. Above all, friend. But his long dreadlocks, his wild enthusiasms and his madcap manner belied a deep seriousness of purpose. He believed that Somalis manufactured anyone. They don't armed anyone. They don't want any Somali to achieve anything. It is better they leave." As the UN prepared to do just that, Elman spread his lieved that Somalis wanted peace and, given half a chance, would turn their backs on war. For the kids who found their way to him, he was that half chance. Elman made his fortune ~

such as it was — before the war, with a chain of 24-hour repair and electrical shops. Even then he was a popular figure. If you had had a punctured tyre, it was said, he would give you one of his own. As Mogadiahu descended into chaos and his businesses collapsed, he diverted his resources to provide an alter-native way of life for young-sters who got their daily bread down the barrel of a gun and who, he believed, were both the problem and the solution. And so the Gunman Project was born on a sprawling site where ruined buildings were turned into workshops for carpentry, woodwork, welding,

lashnikovs into two pieces, be yond hope of repair, and gave up chewing the narcotic leaf

49; Marion Foale, fashion de-signer, 57; Lionel Friend, conductor, 51; Christopher

Gable, actor, 56; Howell James, political secretary to

the Prime Minister, 42; Dick Katz, jazz pianist, writer, 72;

James Marshall, Labour MP, 55; Dr David Peace,

glass engraver, 81; Air Com-modore Helen Renton, for-mer director, WRAF, 65; Netl

mar director, where, so, hear Sedaka, songwriter and singer, 57; Sir Reo Stakis, hotelier, 82; Peter Viggers, Conservative MP, 58.

ognised, but grandpa was considered a hero. She was

extremely pissed off. My granny stopped buying the magazines, and in 1957, left

granny's true life magazine

THE FIRST sign that some

my grandpa. Elaine Dawson tells her

story in Don't Tell It.

Spammed

Elman Ali Ahmed, peace campaigner, born 1953; died March 9, 1996

Death Notices

GREENWOOD. Leurie, aged 72 of bird. Kert. died peecelully on Sat starch 9th He wis a lightly respect histion Manager and Associate Pro to the Birn and letewision business saves a devoted wife, four children bur grand-children PERIONS, James Willem. Beloved of Roy. Valerie, Jame and Juli and he of Jogn. Life long opponent of com-

of Joan. Life long opponent of and member of CND, Fuheral a Crematorium, Million Keynes, 1 14th of March, 12,30pm. M memonic memorium, Milion negation of March, 12,30pm.

Abard March, 12,30pm.

Abard 189 pescelally after a long of borne with great forthade Cilifon Estatement of the memorial forthade Cilifon Esta man Cohvinseson for Rockel Equation of loved husband of Margaret, falther of rise, Saudra, Dennise and Yvorine Pr Justical De field on Monday 12th M 1986. Family librors only Donations in membry may be seet to Marric Curio see 200 feet Belgrave Source, Lo. Berrix 200 feet Belgrave Source, Lo. Berrix 200 feet Belgrave Source, Lo.

I'd heard about "spam" ---

Jackdaw



A la Carte

WHEN I WAS a child I adored the light operas of Gilbert and Sullivan — the Savoy Operas they are called, and my favourite was The Mikado. And though these were the staple fare of amateur opera companies at the small town or village level, there was only one professional company that had the right to perform them — the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, For some time I knew the music heart - but only from records, and it was a great moment when an adult told me that he had tickets next week for the D'Oyly Carte, and we

were to see The Mikado. And if we clapped enough at the end of certain songs, the singer might be induced to perform an encore - or maybe if we were lucky he might perform more than on encore, and there might be different jokes in each. And these predictions turned out to be true. I was enchanted the performances, the whole

was a hint of things to come | Lyle Talbot . . . a face born for B-movies

Ten years or so later, work ing in London. I noticed one evening that the D'Oyly Carte were in town, and would give The Mikado that evening. For old time's sake I went along, and soon realised I had made a mistake. The same sets, the same costumes, and the same perform ers should not perhaps have surprised me, but the same jokes in the same sequence of encores - and the encores provoked by a suspiciously low level of applause — hit me with the force of a religious disillusionment. These operettas had been produced by their author, W S Gilbert, and his production books had long since ossified into law.

so that what I had seen as a child was a production dating one had been allowed to make anything more than the most marginal improvements. It was a matter of absolute ritual - for as long as the magic spell of the copyright lasted — that each generation would take its children to see what they had seen - produc tions which fall prey to such a necrotising tendency that, in

PHOTOGRAPH: KOBAL

the final years of the company, a friend of mine, accom panying a child one evening actually heard one of the actors call out to another as he left the stage: "Well, love, mine's a double whiskey what's yours?" James Penton examines the de sire for authenticity, reproduc-tion and repetition in live performance in the New York

Slippery tale

Review of Books.

Dear Mr Berman, The assistant manager, Mr Kensedder, informed me this A.M. that you called him last evening and said you were unhappy with your maid ser

vice. I have assigned a new girl to your room. I hope you will accept my apologies for any past inconvenience. If you have any future comcan give it my personal atten tion. Call extension 11.08 between 8am and 5pm. Thank

Elaine Carmen Housekeeper

Dear Miss Carmen, It is impossible to contact you by phone since I leave the hotel for business at 7.45 am. and don't get back before 5.30 or 6pm. That's the reason I called Mr Kensedder last night. You were already off duty. I only asked Mr Kensedder if he could do anything about those little bars of soap. The new maid you assigned me must have thought I was a new check-in today, since she left another 3 bars of hotel soap in my medicine cabinet along with her regular delivery of 3 bars on the bath-room shelf. In just 5 days here I have accumulated 24 little bars of soap. Why are you doing this to me?

ķ

Mr Bermon continues the struggle to hold on to his bar q soap in this correspondence with a London hotel, currently doing the rounds on e-mail.

Granny mags

by women's magazines. They told her what to wear, how to behave and how to make sur she didn't lose my grandpa. She says I am lucky ...I can even look at naked

men if I want to. I told her I women who entertained this

idea: "You only have to go

the strained, dissatisfied look on the face of women feeding alone"...The magazines finally began to lose their control over my granny after the war, when she became surplus to requirements and was urged back to the home.

MY GRANNY was controlled

didn't want to but I would fetch one from the newsagents for her . . . During the 1930s my grandpa had a brief affair with a woman he met at the local tea-shop. But my granny wasn't worried. The magazines told her: "Men get these attacks like kiddies get measles . . . Let him have his fling and he'll come back a thousand times more in love with you than ever . . . It occurred to my granny that she should leave my grandpa . . . However, the magazines came down very harshiy on

She was shown how to bake

lovely cakes, how to keep her house beautiful and how to be eternally grateful that her man had returned safely from the war. Her work was unrec-

Do tell . . . Don't Tell It

The Berton

thing was wrong came Sunday afternoon, when I logged on to the internet to check my weekend e-mail and found that someone had enrolled me in a Barry Manilow fan club, a Mercedes-owners discussion group, a Fiji Islandsappreciation society and 103 other Internet mailing lists I'd never heard of. I knew from experience that any one of these lists can generate 50 messages a day. To avoid a deluge of junk e-mail I painstakingly unsubscribed from all 106 - even Barry Manilow's — only to log on Mon-day morning and discover I'd been subscribed overnight to 1,700 more. My file of unread e-mail was growing by the

Internet jargon for machinegenerated junk mail — and over the years I'd received my share of e-mail get-rich quick pitches and cheesy magazine ads. But I had never experienced anything like this: a parade of mail that just got bigger and bigger . . . not only was I getting hundreds of subscription notices, but I was also receiving copies of every piece of mail posted to those lists. By Monday the email was pouring in at the rate of four a minute, 240 an hour, 5,760 a day. Time magazine's Philip Elmer-DeWitt falls victim to cmail "spam". Other victims in this Internet nightmare scenario included Bill Clinton (presidentia; whitehouse gov) the New York Times and MTV. and Newt Gingrich.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. Bmail jackdaw@guardian-.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London ECIR 3ER

Dan Glaister

le fights 1 ggest eve sfighter me contr

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 . Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Wall Street rollercoaster

Recovery signs in US also bring renewed jitters

work Trem in New York and Paul Murphy

were renewed tremors in the world's finan-cial markets yestercaster ride on Wall Street
sending the Dow Jones share
index almost 100 points lower
of one stage.

Rew fork.

Earlier, pante selling saw
the US long bond slump another 1½ points, driving the
yield on this benchmark asset

Reflecting widespread con-fusion on the strength of the American economy and the course of interest rates, the Dow subsequently staged a sharp recovery. Losses on this key indicator had been wiped out by late afternoon in

up above 6.7 per cent, drag-ging share prices down. ously thought and leading an-alysts to scrap hopes of a fur-ther cut in US interest rates. stock market authorities in New York were forced to in-troduce a set of further curbs on trading to try to stop com-puter-generated "sell" orders spiralling out of control.

"We are dealing with a bond market that is extremely skittish and today we

are seeing another significant push upwards in yields."
reported Jim Solloway, a director of top US strategy
house Angus Research. "Stocks are still vulnerable to a correction as long as the bond market stays this way."

The Dow had fallen 171
points on Friday in the wake
of news of a jump in job creation during February, showing the US economy to be

including inflation data.

Peter Cardillo, director of esearch at brokers Westfalia Investments, insisted American stocks still had another 3 per cent correction ahead of them. "This is just normal profit-taking after Monday's surge," he said.

While Monday saw a 110 point

"recovery," this has proved shortlived.

The latest jitters in the American bond market were

sparked by more evidence on the strength of the economic revival there — particularly a report on retail sales from in-

vestment bank. Schroder

Wertheim, showing consumer spending jumping unexpect-edly last week. More authorita-

tive data is due later this week,

reported a nervous session, although the bulk of the losses on Wall Street were only registered after the mar-kets in London had closed The FTSE 100 closed 35 points lower at 3639. London's share and bond strategists are con-fused by Wall Street, but remain wary. "US treasuries and the Dow

clearly haven't decided where they are going and we have seen an across the board markdown in response over here," noted Bob Semple, head of strategy at stock-brokers, NatWest Securities. "Interest rates may have stopped falling, but the fundamentals (such as a steady recover in corporate earnings in Britain) should be enough to pull us through these jitters."

In the City, traders He said, although the US bond market may have further to fall, the sell-off there is not comparable with the rush to sell out of an "overblown" bond market as in the spring

bond market as in the spring of 1994, when a sudden rise in interest rates caught the market by surprise. "We are seeing a process of consolidation rather than anything more sinister," he added.

The City is keenly awaiting industrial production and inflation figures on Thursday and Friday this week.

Trading curbs in operation in New York yesterday included the exotically-named "sidecar." This involves all computer-generated trading orders being rerouted into a separate "basket". They are separate "basket". They are left to sit there for five minutes before being paired off with other trades.

Ad agency

recovery from

ORDIANT, the advertis-ing group which owns the Saatchi & Saatchi and Bates

Worldwide agencies, yester-day claimed to have regained

Saatchi split

Cordiant

claims

Tony May

Shedding light on BET shares riddle



Edited by Alex Brummer

HE failure of the City authorities to crack down hard on the use of "con-tracts for differences", after they were used by Swiss Bank Corporation in the original Trafalgar assault on Northern Electric in December 1994, has given market makers an excuse to ride roughshod over

disclosure rules.

Advisers to BET, which is seeking to fend off a hostile 21.8 billion bid from Rentokil, have discovered that by using contracts for differences, broadly the equivalent of an over-the-counter option, mar-ket makers, in effect, have put

up to 8 per cent of BET stock into play. BET advisers have issued a 212 disclosure notice against a Stock Exchange nomines account Sepon, which records the balances held by each market maker in BET stock. The reply to the notice shows that market makers have at their beck and call an astonishing 8 per cent of BET shares.

financial stability despite being pushed into the red last year and admitting it still lags behind its competitors in key Under normal circum stances they would not be ex-pected to be carrying any more than 2 per cent. The big-gest bolder in Sepon is UBS. Charles Scott, the chairman, said a one-off charge for disposals and extraordinary costs of £54.5 million had helped cause a loss of £22.5 million for 1995 — in which has some 26 million of the 78 million of loose BET shares on its hands, presumline with City forecasts — against a profit of £33.4 milably on behalf of clients.

The assumption is that the

raise some questions for the revenue too. The authorities

have a duty to speak out, and without delay.

Prudential gains

A T first glance, the 1996 figures from the Prudential looking mighty im-

pressive, with a smart 16 per cent rise in operating profits

to £804 million. However, the

breakdown of the numbers

shows that Prudential's basic UK life business is still suffer-

ing the overhang of endow-

ment fatigue and the pensions

mis-selling scandal with

profit down to £350 million

This may partly explain why it is anxious to expand

its franchise through acquisi-

tion and may, like the Abbey National, Alliance & Leices-

ter and others, be casting its

from £381 million.

lion a year earlier. Bob Seelert, the chief execu-8 per cent is effectively con-trolled by arbitrageurs, like the US hedge funds who, by tive appointed last summer after the departure of Mau-rice and Charles Saatchi trig-gered several top manage-ment and client defections, parking the shares with mar-ket makers using contracts for differences, avoid such inconveniences as paying close their role in the bid Margins improved from 5.7

per cent to 6.4 per cent and should rise again this year. But, to catch up, Mr Se wants 10 per cent margins by the end of 1998 and, he said, duty and make public any holding greater than 1 per cent. This sleight of hand by about one-third of the immarket makers and clients provement would come from raises serious questions about transparancy in a con-tested bid situation and may

competition.

Revenue growth remains the key factor, though. For example, last year the group replaced £40 million of lost revenue with new account

However, competitors achieved composite revenue growth of 9.4 per cent, while Cordiant managed only 2.1 per cent. The group does not expect revenue in 1996 to be any higher than last year after allowing for the impact of disposals — although it does aim to pay a final

Mr Scott said that the trading environment was positive, with advertising markets around the world est to continue growing over the next three years.

which had been made, including the sale of the company's Campbell Mithum Esty advertising agency, and a success ful rights issue which raised £126 million to wipe out group

The UK profits shortfall at Prudential is mainly covered by a phenomenal result from its US offshoot Jackson National Life, which special-ises in the sale of single pre-

eyes over some of the life sec-

mium policies — although its sales appear to have peaked in the first quarter of last year and have been on a year and have been on a downward curve since. Moreover, it is unlikely to be helped by the rise in US bond yields.

Elsewhere, the Pru is making solid, if unspectacular, progress in Asia, and has a sained strongly on fund

gained strongly on fund man-agement, due to a turnaround in pension funds it manages and as a result of higher fee

The main focus for the future will be on its direct banking launch this October. This is positive in that it does not want to cede direct selling of mortgages and savings products to competitors like Direct Line and First Direct but also negative in that it would like to recapture some of its maturing life policies and presumably is looking for

new forms of distribution.

Meanwhile, existing share holders can start to anticipate a nice little payout, should the DTI decide the Pru may divide its £5 billion or so of orphan funs — unallocated investment surpluses -- 90/10 among policyholders and shareholders.

Road runner

"URBULENCE is scarcely the right background for the launch of an innovarive bond lasge. Even so, Leb burg will not be too unhappy with their first effort at tap ping the capital markets to support the Government's private finance initiative.

The financing of stretches of the Ai(M) — between Aland the A419-A417, between Swindon and Gloucester, is scarcely in the same ballpark Under most circumstances as a US Treasury market try-ing to cope with news of US unemployment data which such investors would have to pay half-a-per-cent stamp sent the world's government debt markets into a tailspin

over the weekend. But, getting a £165 million issue away at 80 basis points over a comparable UK gilt, even with guarantees from a triple-A-rated monoline in-

surer, is an achievement. But it is not the end of the story. The two projects being financed are hardly typical of the Government's private fi-nance initiative. They are the Government comes up with the cash on the basis of an agreed user formula, rather than a purely private sector initiative where the franchise holder has both to

ect the cash. Persuading institutional inriskier PFI projects will be a more difficult proposition. The financing of infrastructure projects will have to be discussed on a case-by-case basis. Even the sponsors of yesterday's novel scarcely hope that their move will open the floodgates to similar issues.

estimate traffic flow and col-

BAe fights for biggest ever **US fighter** plane contract

RITISH Aerospace will receive from the Penta-gon this week the first indication of its chances of defence contract in history, to design and build up to 3,000 Anglo American fighter-

The contract is worth up to \$1.000 billion (£650 billion) for the winning contractor. BAe and its partners, McDonnell-Douglas and Northrep Gruphman, are competing against into service by the year 3005.

Boeing and the new Lock-heed-Martin defence group.

The Pentagon is poised to pick goes off to make alumin-lum storm doors." com-

so-called Joint Strike Fighter that will meet the widely dif-ferent requirements of the US

Rolls-Royce is also vying for a share of the work. On Monday the aero-engine maker announced plans to team up with General Electric of the US to design and develop engines for the aircraft. To save on costs, the Pents-con has insisted that the sircraft be a small, agile fighter to replace the F-16, carry enough weaponry to replace the A-10 tankbuster, be sturdy enough to be slammed onto be able to land and take off vertically like a Sea Harrier. and have a bomb bay big enough to hold a 2,000lb mis sile. One more thing. It has to incorporate the new Stealth technology to make it invisi-

\$30 million for each aircraft. But the spare parts and export potential over an exnected 30-year life span will take the total value of the con-

a product

tract up to \$1000 billion. Each of the three defence contractors has passed the Pentagon's first hurdle with a performance. This week, the Pentagon passes over the computer discs with its ad-

anced specifications. "It is the airplane pro eramme of the century. cording to Micky Blackwell of Lockheed. "Winner takes

then refine their designs by next May, and then the Pentanext May, and then the Penta-gon will pick two of them to build prototypes that will compete against one another. One final design will be cho-sen to go into production, and into service by the year 3005. "The one of the three that gets excluded in next year's pick goes off to make alumin-

mented BAe's US spokesman. Phil Soucy. "It is not make or break for BAe, but a contract Air Force, US and Royal Natins side could mean corpo-vies, and the US Marine rate survival for some

players."
The demand that the new plane be able to match the Harrier's vertical take off is a major advantage for the BAs team, led by McDonnell Douglas. BAs pioneered the con-cept of the Harrier, and Mc Donnell built the Americanised version for the

US Marine Corps. There is speculation throughout the industry that the ambitious project might be re-assessed, amid doubts that the various roles and customers require too much from a single airframe.

There are bitter memories of the swing-wing F-111, supposed to be a strike bomber for both US Navy and Air Force, which the Navy finally ole on radar.

All that for less than isfied the Air Force. The McDonnell-BAe ver-

sion tries to improve its Stealth qualities by doing away with the tail, and rely ing on fly-by-wire computer-ised controls.

The Boeing version is de-signed to offer also a cheaper and unmanned \$15 million preliminary design that is version which ca claimed to meet the basic from the ground. version which can be piloted



Chief executive Bob Seelert says Cordiant will catch up with the competition after the loss of business in the turmoil of the Saatchi brothers' departure PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Bank shares sink as mortgage rates are cut

EXPECTATIONS of an all-out mortgage war shares plummeting after Bradford & Bingley cut the rates to 7.25 per cent;
But B&B claims that its 5.99
But B&B claims that its 5.99 Britain's fifth-biggest build-

ing society lowered its stan-0.25 per cent reduction in

The B&B slashed to 5.99 per cent the rate charged on loans arranged over the telephone through its direct mortgage subsidiary. Mortgage rates the Halifax. below 6 per cent were last seen in the 1950s.

The prospect of ferocious competition for mortgages, and the banks' panic reaction. pushed Abbey National shares down by 21p to 534p, Lloyds TSB down 15.5p to 25p. Barclays down 25p to GSSp and NatWest down 28p to low base."

Building Society, soon to be base rate cut had reduced its reviewing its options.

7.29 per cent, reducing the monthly cost of a 260,000 mortgage by £8.88. Yorkshire Bank and Bristol & West cut

per cent is the lowest on the market — although it is only available to borrowers with a dard mortgage rate to 6.99 per 25 per cent deposit who are cent, following last week's not already existing B&B borrowers. It undercuts Direct Line's 6.25 per cent rate. A £60,000 repayment mort-

gage with B&B Mortgage Direct will cost £370 monthly, compared with £411.59 with B&B general manager John

Wriglesworth explained: The mortgage market remains stagnant and the mortgage war will become ever more intense until activity revives. We are seeing signs of some small improvements - but it is from a very

swallowed by the Abbey | rate to 6.99 per cent — in a bid National, yesterday also cut to bolster its mutual status its rate from 7.54 per cent to through distributing some profits to members - is expected to announce a further reduction shortly.

If it passes on the full 0.25 per cent reduction to its borrowers, its new rate will fall to 6.74 per cent, maintaining a rate a half a per cent lower than other major lenders. Yorkshire Building Society is also planning to announce

a mutuality package for its members later this month. But Bristol & West is tipped as the next society likely to attempting to smelt their abandon its mutual status. Speculation is mounting that the society may soon be put up for sale.

However, members of the public hoping to jump on the bandwagon will have to stump up £2,500 as a minimum deposit to open an acany bonus bribes should the of Durham may be used not society be sold. count, in the hope of sharing The society declined to

The Nationwide Building comment on speculation that Society, which before the it might be sold, but admits to century.

Dons sting gold thieves

DAN ATKINSON on a British development that relies on the yellow metal not being totally pure

worth of gold supposedly stolen by, among others, the Nazis, the KGB and Third World dictators could be settled once and for all by a British-pioneered device capable of 'fingerprinting'' samples

of bullion. The equipment can also be used to foil gold thieves booty in an attempt to hide its origin.

The laser mass spectrometer has been under development in Australia and South Africa, chiefly to prevent theft from individual gold mines. A more advanced system

only by police but by liti-gants in some of the biggest

available at the University

ONG-RUNNING dis- | trillion, the machine scans involving trace elements mixed in putes involving trace elements mixed in billions of pounds with the gold to identify the country and mine of origin. The university has of-

fered its own system - so sensitive it can detect from a water sample the presence of a gold ring in a swimming pool — to Scot-land Yard and other agencies involved in the prosecution of gold thieves and bullion smugglers.

The police have "already shown active interest in the equipment we've got," according to Durham's Dr Grenville Holland.

In the longer term, indi-viduals and governments pursuing claims for missng or stolen bullion will be able to put their allegations to the test.

been extremely difficult; wealth originated in a indeed, the very fact that bullion hoard left behind gold is an anonymous, stan- by the Japanese invaders in Accurate to one part per dard commodity allows it 1945.

to be traded around the world in homogenous lots. But this system, known as ICP-MS, makes gold far easier to distinguish South Africa's Chamber

of Mines hopes to set up a "fingerprint file" which may eventually contain samples from every mine in the world. ICP-MS was pioneered in the late 1970s by a British scientist, Alan Gray, and was limited until very recently to specific types of scientific analysis. For the British authorities, ICP-MS promises to turn up the heat on gold thieves and help break smuggling rings. On the wider stage, the system

could be used in courts to settle gold fends arising from revolutions and wars. Among the best-known supposed gold hoards are those said to belong to the last of the czars, to the Nazi party's inner circle and to former Philippines presi-dent Ferdinand Marcos. In In the past, proving the origin of a piece of gold has have claimed that his

MGM sale proves a screen test for Credit Lyonnais

Mark Milner **European Business Editor**

CREDIT Lyonnais' gamble of turning film producer is to be put to the ultimate test after its Hollywood film studio, MGM, was officially put up for sale in what is being billed as one of the decade's most glamorous corporate auctions.

Cash-strapped Credit Lyonnais has invested in turning out new illms, like the latest James Bond movie. Golden-Eye, and John Travolta's Get Shorty in a bid to enhance the value of MGM, one of Hollywood's original Big Four studios. In the past senior ex-ecutives of the state owned French banking group have argued that the studio's value would be enhanced if it could demonstrate the capability to turn out profitable box-office

Yesterday the French government gave the green light for MGM's sale which could realise anything between \$1.5 billion (£1 billion) and \$2 billion.

French textile and communications group Chargeurs said it would look at MGM and Polygram, controlled by Anglo-Dutch electronics group Philips, has also said it suitors include German media company Bertelsmann and The Walt Disney Co.

France became the improb able owner of MGM — once the proudest name in Holly-wood under legendary producer Louis B. Meyer through the ill-fated expansion of Credit Lyonnais. The state ended up with the holding company, Consortium de Realisation. The sale is to be conducted in co-operation with the Paris-based investment bank Lazard Freres.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

France 7.48 Germany 2.2000 Greece 366.00 Hong Kong 11.57 India 51.84 Australia 1.92 Austria 15.30 Belgium 45.00 Canada 2.02 Cyprus 0.70

italy 2,330 Maita 0.54 Netherland: 2,4700 New Zealand 2,20 Norway 9.58 Portugal 227.50

Singapore 2.11 South Africa 5.77 Spain 183.75

Shareholders and policyholders could share billions • Shares rise 27p Poorest nations miss out

Pru plans big payout

Pauline Springett

HAREHOLDERS and policyholders of Prudential, the UK's argest life insurer, could share a multibillion pound windfall payout, it emerged yesterday. Prudential's chief executive, Peter Davis, said the company had started talks with the Department of Trade and industry over the possible distribution of its "orphan fund". Mr Davis warned that the negotiations could take two years, and declined to comment on rumours that the fund could be as large as £5 billion. Most analysts believe it probably stands at around £3 billion. Orphan assets are surplus life funds not needed to meet

bonuses due to with-profits policies. They are nicknamed

Hanson lops

£1bn off debt

in Cavenham

ANSON has raised \$1.6 billion (£1.06 billion) by

selling the second part of its Cavenham timber and saw-

mill business after an initial \$500 million sale last month. The agreement completes a stage in the conglomerate's

demerger plans, as well as reducing its heavy debts.

said the negotiations had been

completed ahead of schedule and at a higher price. "There

will be a significant pre-tax gain. The net cash proceeds will reduce debt and gearing

Hanson is expected to receive a net sum of slightly more than \$1 billion, on top of \$1.8 billion from the sale of

Cavenham was acquired in 1990 from Sir James Gold-smith's business empire. The

forest products company was part of a swap for the New-mont gold mining business, which Hanson had acquired with its takeover of ConsGold.

But Cavenham has not per

The sale is a prelude to the

break-up of the conglomerate

that was built up in the 1980s

through a series of ambitious takeovers. Later this year

Hanson will emerge as a rump of the existing group,

following the sale or separate

flotation of Imperial Tobacco, the SCM and Quantum chemi-

cals companies, and the build-

formed well. It suffered from which affected margins, and last year the group decided it would be sold to cut Hanson'

William Landuyt, chief executive of Hanson's US business

timber sale

Roger Cown

substantially.'

debt levels.

Suburban Propane.

cyholders and shareholders is

The Pru's articles of associpayout, a maximum of 90 per cent must go to the with-profits policyholders, with the balance payable to shareholders. Mr Davis said the actual split would need to be agreed sibly to buy a life company.
with the DTL although he emwith the DTL although he em The Pru's 1995 pre-tax prof-phasised that the upshot its were \$1.044 billion. Comwould not "adversely affect the interests of policyholders. or the company's ability to meet policyholders' reason-able expectations."

Orphan funds have become a key issue in the UK life inhave a total surplus of around

Several insurers, including ready announced the release

orphan funds because the Pru's move is expected to ownership split between poli prompt others to follow. The announcement helped

to trigger a 27p increase in the Pru's shares to 454p. Furation stipulate that from any ther impetus came from better-than-expected 1995 profits. a 9 per cent rise in the dividend to 15.7p and market ap-proval of the company's plans to open a bank as well as pos-

> parison with the previous year's £358 million was muddied by the company's switch to new accounting rules, which mean that it now in-cludes actual investment gains and losses in the prof-its. The market said the operating profit figures, which rose 16 per cent to £804 million, were more meaningful. The profits improvement was mainly due to good investment results, and better

> > IN DE LUCET

performances from the comthat the Pru's priority was the acquisition of a life company's reinsurance operation Mercantile & General and its pany. He declined to elabo-US subsidiary Jackson Life. Profits at Prudential UK fell rate, beyond saying that no specific talks were underway. The life industry is rapidly to £350 million from £381 million, after £35 million of bad consolidating and analysts exweather claims. The company pect the Pru to make a bid also set aside £20 million to soon. Likely targets include Norwich Union, Scottish Widpay for the set-up costs of the banking operation, which ows and Friends Provident. starts in October

building societies of much of the £1 billion it pays out every year on maturing life policies. There has been strong spec-ulation that the Pru would

buy a building society. Mr Davis said: "we may very well

The bank will take deposits by telephone and will issue Mr Davis said the UK life industry continued to be diffimortgages. The Pru already has a £700 million mortgage cult, although business was improving. Public confidence had been dented by the misbook and, operating with low costs, hopes to compete in the mortgage market. It also hopes to curtail the reinvestselling of personal pensions and controversy over disclo-sure of commissions. ment in rival banks and

The Pru has never dis-closed how much it set aside to pay possible compensation for the mis-selling of pensions, but Mr Davis stressed the provision was insignificant in relation to the size of

on record investment by Western companies

Sarah Ryle

are investing record amounts in developing countries but not in the world's poorest nations, which are facing growing debt problems because they are losing official aid, the World Bank said last night.

Despite record levels of overall investment in de-veloping countries of \$231 billion (£149 billion) in 1995, the Bank said continuing reductions in offi-cial aid would make already badly-off nations even more vulnerable.

It called on the West to target official aid at countries able to replace lost funds with private investment. But it also said countries that have not won this sort of external finance should work harder to create stable political and economic environments

The report identified the most vulnerable economies as being mainly in sub-Sa-haran Africa and Latin America.

Debt-to-export ratios cor

tinued to worsen in sub-Sa-haran Africa, falling to 270 per cent, compared with improving debt ratios in East Asia which managed to reduce the ratio from 93 per cent in 1994 to 83 per cent last year.

The vast majority of over-all private capital was in-vested in the East Asian and Pacific region. That area took 59 per cent of this kind of finance, an 18 per cent rise on the 1993 level. But Latin America and the Caribbean saw its share fall by 18 per cent to a fifth of he money available. The World Bank sald the

continuing trend towards difficulties which some de-globalisation of production, veloping countries have in s well as economic reform programmes, had contrib-uted to healthy private cap-

Asia benefited most from record levels of foreign direct investment (FDI). which rose by 13 per cent last year to reach a record high of \$90 billion, while China absorbed 40 per cent of this investment.

However FDI fell by a nomic policies saw stock third in sub-Saharan Africa market prices reaching ore-to \$2 billion, reflecting the Mexican crisis levels.

Emerging markets Direct investment is replacing aid.

Portfolio essaty investment 200 Foreign direct investment

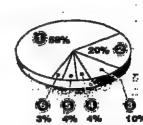
M Net private debt tious.

.. and more private capital is flowing to East Asia.

1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991

Share of private capital

2 Latin America & Caribbsan 4 South Assa



attracting private finance.

Private capital as a whole

slowed mainly because

portfolio flows fell, pushed down by the drop in equity

investment after the Mex-

But the Bank reported

that emerging markets had recovered strongly since

the second quarter of 1995.

Countries with strong eco-

3 Europe & Central Asia 6 Middle East & North Africa

Hours rule counts for little

WORKFACE/European work directive leaves employers plenty of scope for exemptions. Seumas Milne reports

tions and whoops of delight average of 7 per cent) and 20 state where the length of the from Labour and the unions per cent antitled to less than over yesterday's European four weeks off a year, the discourt of Justice interim ruling on working hours follow a lions of working lives. well worn pattern of political hyperinflation in British

limit that the British Govern-ment is seeking to overturn on the grounds that it is not a health and safety measure and should therefore be subject to a UK veto — would "damage competitiveness and flexibility", the CBI warned, while Labour's Michael Meacher called it a "major

blow against exploitation and But even if Downing Street's pledge to fight on comes to nought when the Luxembourg court delivers its final verdict later this year, the effect of the EU's working time directive is likely to turn out to be puny

in Britain. At first giance, the main provisions look impressive. The directive sets a ceiling of 48 hours on the working week and 11 hours on the working day, and guarantees the right

to a minimum of one rest day a week and four weeks' holiday a year by 1999. With 6 per cent of British

though the 48-hour average will apply to them. British employees put in by Tory Eurosceptics and employers' organisa- week (compared with an EU week (compared with an EU

The employers' salvation comes in the small print, which spells out a string of qualifications and exemp tions. First, the 48-hour limit is averaged out over four months, and is conditional on employee consent. All transport workers are exempted, as is the fishing industry.

With the exception of the annual leave provision, all those whose working time is not "predetermined" — covering a vast array of manage-rial posts — are excluded. The



far the longest hours in the EU, and Britain is the only hours a week is one in four. For male workers the figure

same largely goes for those whose jobs require continuity of service or production— which covers hospital, secu-rity and media employees,—

is closer to one in three. While partly reflecting the exceptionally high level of overtime, it is also the result of the trend towards the longer hours being worked by managerial and professional employees. With the sectors most associated with long hours stripped out of the working time directive, nei-ther the hopes of the unions

nor the fears of the employers are likely to be realised. The TUC still hopes it will make its mark in manufactur-ing, but John Cridland, the CBPs director of human Te-souces, accepts the directive is unlikely to shorten Britain's working week Instead, he complains, it will waste employers' time by forcing them to prove they are cov-

ered by the exemptions. There is another CBI worry The directive leaves the detail of compensation or extra tithe off for exempted workers to be settled by national legislation or collective bargaining. That spells a potential — and for many British employers, an unwelcome — new role for

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News in brief

Fear of flying . . . This worker's sticker says 'Keep Fokker in The Air', but along with 2,000 colleagues at Fokker's factory

at Schiphol airport, Amsterdam, he was told yesterday that the company may crash this week. The best hope is for a takeover by Samsung or Aviation Industries of China, said Fokker chairman Ben van Schaik

Vickers soothes City over share options

SIR Richard Lloyd, chairman of tank and car maker Vickers, has contacted institutional investors in an attempt to soothe City ange over the way three directors exercised share options on the morning that the company announced its annual results. Sir Richard is understood to have assured investors that the timing of the share transactions was the responsibility of the company

Investors were furious last week when three directors exercised options worth £760,000 immediately after Vickers posted a 67 per cent increase in profits to £75 million accompanied by a neu trading statement. Sir Colin Chandler, Vickers group chief executive, netted a profit of £359,290 by exercising options at 86p and selling shares at 292p. Commercial director Andrew John made £109,764, while Roger Head, finance and planning managing director, made £38,000. — Chris Barris

500 more Barclays jobs go

UP TO 500 staff face the axe at Barclays Bank, which yesterday announced the latest redundancy programme in an industry-wide cost-saving drive that has resulted in tens of thousands of job losses over the past five years. The cuts bring to 21,500 the humbs of jobs lost by Barclays alone since 1991.

The banking union, Bifu yesterday predicted that Barclays is looking to shed a further 10.000 jobs by the end of the decade. But Barclays insisted that it was trying to our back through voluntary redundancy packages among staff in its 13 regional administra-tive centres. No job losses were planned in its high-street branch network. -- Patrick Donovan

Williams seeks new buys

WILLIAMS Holdings, the conglomerate which owns Polycell DIY products, Yale locks and Thoro fire extinguishers, is keen on more acquisitions in its three main businesses of fire protection, security and building products.

Williams yesterday reported 15 per cent growth in sales for 1995, to £1.6 billion. Pre-tax profit rose by 14 per cent to £228 million, but after adjusting for exceptional items, earnings per share rose by only 2 per cent. — Roger Come

TI engineers £185m profit

SALES and profits of engineering group TI (formerly Tube Investments) rose by more than a fifth last year, to £1.7 billion and

1385 million respectively.

1385 million respectively.

1386 chairman, Sir Christopher Lewington, said markets were likely to be more difficult during 1996 but he added that the group likely to be more difficult during 1996 but he added that the group had done better in the first two months than in the same period

He said the aerospace market should continue to improve. Both Dowty Aerospace and Messier Dowty are well represented on key programmes, and as we now see airline profitability being restored, we expect these businesses to benefit from the upturn in this market." — Roger Coure

Breaking up would not be hard to do for C&W

Outlook

Nicholas Bannister

CANDIDATES for the vanot count on a long stay. The odds on the group being bro-ken up look even shorter now that merger talks with British Telecom have ground to a

C&W is a company in play. The jewel in its crown is its 57.5 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom, which generates the bulk of its profits.

But as BT discovered, a company bidding for C&W would be required under the colony's securities law to bid for the minority stake in Hongkong Telecom, possibly adding £6 million to a bid price of over £11 million.

Bids in the telecom indus-

try are inherently risky. It is in ferment. New technologies creating new business models, which blur the edges between telecom, computer and entertainment companies. competition.

The only certainty is that telecom companies are never going to be the same again. This perspective has encouraged companies to share risk by forming alliances which can be unscrambled if necessary, rather than opting for expensive bids.

US cable companies keen to get into global telecommunications were once seen as po-tential bidders for C&W, but they are suddenly having to look to their own back yard. following changes in US telecom law.

The traditional international telecom groups are concentrating on mainland Europe, where the main markets are due to be opened to

competition by 1998.

BT, for example, aims to be a major player in countries such as Germany, Italy, Spain, and France, It hardly wants to get involved in a hostile bid for its main UK competitor.

However, City analysis believe that BT's interest in C&W is not over. BT wants to strengthen its presence in the Far East Analysts believe that the group may return to National telecom monopolies in some important countries with MCI, its 20 per cent are about to be opened to owned US partner, and put forward a break-up proposal confidence in the business.

 with some financial engineering to avoid a bid for the minority stake in Hongkong

BT knows it would not be allowed to own C&W's 80 per cent stake in Mercury. Its main UK competitor, or its 50 per cent stake in the Mercury One-2-One mobile phone business which competes with BT-controlled Cellnet

But there are potential purchasers for these stakes. AT&T, the US telecom group which holds a UK public oper-ator's licence, has said it would not build its own network in the UK, but it would not be adverse to buying one ready-made. US West, a cashrich US regional phone group, already owns half of Mercury One-2-One and might consider taking 100 per cent.

MCI could absorb C&W;s

American operations while BT would take control of its Japanese, Hong Kong, Australian. French and German

If BT fails to return to the fray, it is just possible that C&W might survive as an independent company because of a technicality in Hong Kong and because there were better opportunities else-where. Hardly a great vote of

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL

Collier digs deep for the Old firm

Dunwoody errs as Alderbrook loses a shoe | den's stable two years ago. He backed the horse at 161 last and Champion title. Chris Hawkins reports

ley's way at Cheltenham yesterday when he achieved the ultimate ironic triumph in winning the Smurfit Champion Hurdle on Collier Bay, beating last year's Champion Alderbrook on whom he lost the ride 24 days ago. Bradley overslept on the

Same firm -

He was never nearer than at the finish, making good progress coming down the hill but failing by two and a half lengths to catch Collier Bay who went for home at the second last

Alderbrook lost a aboe in the race, which could not have belped, but many ratiohal judges believed Dunwoody had erred, including the colt's former trainer Julie

Kim Bailey, the current trainer, would not be drawn into criticising Dunwoody and commented: "It is very hard when you're watching live to see what's happening cause your hands are shak-

IFE'S pendulum instructions. He watched the swung Graham Brad-video of last year and is champion jockey. The ground was riding quite tacky but on last year's form, with Mysilv fin-ishing way behind us, he has

> when he won that race." Certainly Alderbrook was asked to do more and the tactics of waiting at the back, in-stead of midfield as executed

morning he was due to ride Alderbrook in a gallop and the mount went to Richard Dunwoody whose turn it was to nod off yesterday.

Dunwoody always seemed to be giving Alderbrook too much to do and going down the back was 14th of the 15 for 24 years but nearly lost it runners. after one, is a great trier and

has kept going despite meeting all sorts of adversity.

"After my first year when I didn't have a winner the Jockey Chib called me in and asked me whether I could train," said Old, who promptly set about convincing them. Whether it was luck or de-

sign Old had his first winner a few days later and all the stewards were on — at least that's how the story goes. Collier Bay is owned by Wally Sturt whose Cima finished runner-up to Dawn Run in the 1984 Champion Hurdle. Sturt, a builder and property developer, has been a stalwart supporter of the Old for 45,000gns out of John Gos-

week and topped up his bet at 9-1 vesterday.

Collier Bay, who won the Irlsh Champion Hurdle in January, may not run again this season. But he is only a six-year-old and, all being well, will be back to defend his crown next season. Cor-al's make him 7-1 joint favourprobably done more than ite with Alderbrook.

Tom Foley thought the go-ing was too sticky for Danoli, who finished fourth, and hopes to give him a final run over hurdles at Aintree be-fore sending him chasing

next season.

The Arkle Chase was won in devastating style by Ventana Canyon who produced a spectacular burst of acceleration after jumping two out to swamp Arctic Kinsman.

It was typical Cheltenham when the opening Citroen Su-preme Novice Hurdle went to 25-1 shot Indefence. This was a first Festival winner for jockey Warren Marston and the first championship hurdles winner for Jenny Pitman who seldom finds herself saddling such a

longshot.
"He's not very big and he's got flat feet but he's hellish tough," said Mrs P. "You can have the biggest, most hand-some horse in the world but it's no good unless they've got guts. Just like people really."

• A total of 39,175 paying customers attended the opening day of the Festival, the second highest first-day crowd behind the figure



Grand Canyon . . . No danger to the Arkle Chase winner Ventana Canyon as he takes the last fence in splendid isolation PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Viking Flagship to sail home for Champion treble

Ron Cox

IKING Flagship, al-ready well established in the affections of Cheltenham Festival followers, is poised to enter the record books today with a third consecutive victory in the Queen Mother Champion Chase a treble last achieved by Badsworth Boy in the years 1983 to '85.

pated strong Irish chal-lenge from Klairon Davis, Sound Man and Strong Platinum, Viking Flagship will need to be at his very

But all the evidence suggests he is at least as good as last year, when he scampered away up the hill to score by five lengths. He only won by a neck from Travado in 1994, but was six lengths too good for his old rival at Newbury last month and bigger dangers lurk elsewhere.

On fast ground Strong Platinum would rate a major threat. He beat Sound Man and Klairon Davis under his favoured conditions at Punchestown last spring, and on his day is capable of smart form in the mud as he showed when running Imperial Call (received 12lb) to a length and a half at Leopardstown

However, Strong Platilast time out and there is a doubt about his willingness

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Newton Abbot

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1478-1 1821.2 First (4) (78) 60 pP Hobbs P-11-0
PEPF44 JARLEBRAKEE (15) (CD) 8 MERCH P-10-1
128-49 POP SONG (25) (CD) 6 Ros (25) 60 pP Hobbs P-10-1
128-49 EAPLE DAMESER (30) (D) Barons 10-10-1
25-40 LUCKY ADARK (55) (D) C Pophum P-10-0

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(0-) PAPRICA (60) A Hermony 7-11-0

(RFF MTAL DIACESSOR (145) M Langer 7-11-0

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Betting: 11-4 Blue Lava, 3-1 Time For A Flutter, 4-1 Smaggler's Point, 5-1 Jacksin, 5-1 Biester Horo, 7-1 Vaccoust Telly, 10-1 Laudsker Prydo & commerc

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345009- STEEL GEBI (28) (ICD) C Hodges 7-10-0

POPP- WOODWARD (289) M Borry 7-10-0

Settings 5-2 Out Ranking, 5-1 Rainham, 7-1 Dutly Sport Cirt, Robins Pride, 8-1 Till Tecn Flyer, Persistent Gensey, 19-1 Mars South

Sentings 3-1 Sweepinks, 7-2 Abo George, 5-1 ks A Snip, 8-1 Stiverino, it's Not My Part, 8-1 Bellydoupan 10-1 Deep late: 55-1 Deep late: 35-1 D

The J L Lieu

Art Land

TOP FORM TIPE: Dames 8, About 7, Myblackhara 6

to battle. Viking Flagship can worry him out of it. Klairon Davis has had problems with his jumping since he beat Sound Man half a length in last season's Arkle Trophy, whereas Sound Man seems to have gone from strength

to strength.
But it was a well below par Viking Flagship that Sound Man beat at San-down in December, and ham in March David Nicholson has been spot on with Viking Flagship (2.50). He is again the one they all have to beat.

With Hotel Minella, disappointing in yesterday's Champion Hurdle, left in the Coral Cup today, more than half the runners are unable to carry their proper weight. But this is good news for

the connections of Treasure

Again (3.30), who is sitting pretty with 10st.

Well enough regarded to be left in tomorrow's Stayers' Hurdle, Treasure Again showed improved form to win a competitive form to win a competitive race at Ascot and a line through the third there, Lucky Blue, suggests he is weighted to beat Trainglot. The progressive River Lossie (4.05) is suggested as an each-way alternative to Sun Alliance Chase hot-pot

Mr Mulligan. The National Hunt Chase can be narrowed down to num was beaten at 3-1 on three or four and it can pay to follow Tim Forster

Class Of Ninetytwo (4.40).

4.15 Alle Geo

Cheltenham with form for the televised races

4.40 Chap Of Hist 5.15 Call It A Day

counts for

1.2.15 SUR ALLIANCE HOVICE SURBLE 2 SU DATA16 CS-21 STORM MORTH (61) blins V Williams 5-11-7
1512C STROME PROMISE CSIG G Hotbers 6-11-7
1512C STROME PROMISE CSIG G Hotbers 6-11-7
(9-13)1 THE SERVICEND BERS (1) G Gebing 8-11-7
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SO153 THE SERVICEND (18) THOMAS FOLLOW THOMAS 1-11-7
SO153 THE SERVICEND (18) N HORSEND 7-11-7
411115 WINGLEY STORMER (20) (CS) N THIS CONTROL SERVICEND (20) (CS)

FORM GLESS - RECLEDE SOURCLAME Tractics bearing, led 2 cus, noon clear, was easily by 81 from 2-minus Ring Michaelpham 2004, Ga-Sty. GO-MFORMAL Led 2 act, quickened and stayed on well, won by 321 from Masser Nova (Newcastle 2004)

1-10FIF COULTON (28) (C) (D) 0 Sterwood P-12-0 21-23C DAMCINO PADDY (18) (D) K C-Bruse 8-12-0 24-1FLE KLARRON DAYES (42) (CD) A Moore 2-12-0 24-1FLE KLARRON DAYES (42) (CD) A Moore 2-12-0 2-11111 SOURD BAN (28) (D) E O'Rarly 8-12-0 1-1122 STRONG PLATRUM (19) (D) P Barries 8-12-0 0-1152 TRANADO (28) (CD) M HORERON (10-12-0 11-03)1 VICING PLAGENEY (18) (CD) D HICKOLOR 8-12-0

STROMA PLATTRIBUB Below Dest isst time when held op goving well, challenged appreaching last, no exists, you 25 by Opera Hai (Nees 2nt, Yog), YRANGEDE Every chance last, chaldis to quothen last, 60 2nd of 4 ficilithers to YYONG PLAGERY Divi), with DAACONG PADDY (by) 311 dip Newbory 2nds, 66-35). YRONGE PLAGERIEF When of the new for last 2 years, had always such last lowe when close up and led 5 601, close 2 cut, won assety by 71 from DANGING PADDY (spc 7tb) (Kompiter 2nd, 65-86).

101	111-22 ROTEL MODILA (1) A Crame 9-11-10	17 Hpen (7)
01	23-1546 TIME FOR A RUM (20) (CD) E O'Grady 9-10-10	M Descroedy
67	011-153 KALONE ARRUT (25) (8F) JOH 7-10-6	Coherns
64	522-10-F LESKON'S SIEL (196) (BF) M Pipe 7-10-7	
65	2:1111 HEW CO (25) M Morris 8-10-7	C O'Deyer
166	1(P,:-11 TRANSOLOT (30) J ForGerald 9-10-3	If Duyer
97	D-12152 SONBAB (25) M Pros 8-10-3	G Manda
00	1;29-51 TREASURE AGAIN (81) Mits Morriss John 7-10-0	O 197166
44	365-277 BARNA 957 (46) N Handerson 5-10-0	AFRegun
10	364-410 ROBERTY LEA (36) Life M Revoloy 8-10-0	
11	2-2114 SOURISMAN CARTLE (SE) A Michiganya 7-10-0	C S474
12	151511 ODERA WAY (183) J Fowlet 5-10-0	A Preside
12	Mr_179 EDARKY GAYLE (TIB) (BF) C Parker 8-10-0	
14	220.42 JATHER 6841 D Michalism 5-10-0	
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18	ar and brilliant to at 5 bloballs 2 15-5	5 (1000)
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	537-07 ALLEZ WILKING (26) N Headstron 7-10-0	J.R.Konner
18	22-U210 TOP CEES (1) (EF) Mrs a Remoden 6-10-0	L West
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20	SCHOOL BURNESS (See See See See See See See See See	D Harbar
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**	1-641) STAR MARKET (19) (0) N THURST-COMM 8-10-0	- 17
25	20-025 ASSES SOIT IL (11) F Marphy 6-10-0	(d) +

TOP FORM TIPS: Transacts Again 5, Solpair 7, Time For A Plan 6 Lettings 5-1 Turb For A Russ, 5-1 Transjet, 7-1 New Co., 10-1 Sparst, Transver Again, 12-1 Burns Boy. Mara Mat. Sparky Gayle, 14-1 Million, 18-1 Bulbertain Castin.

RACELINE C891-168-101 0891-168-201 AND REMEMBER ALL CALLS CHARGED PER SECOND 0891 168+ COMMENTARY CHELTENHAM 101 201 N. ABBOT 102 202 HUNT'DON 103 203

Dean's double

DEAN GALLAGHER, who decided to miss the first two days at Cheltenham, rode a 37-1 double at Windsor yesterday on Mr Flanagan and Katie Oliver, taking his tally to 11 winners in the last 10

racing days.

Mr Flanagan led four out to score by 10 lengths from Don't Tell The Wife in the Popes-wood Handicap Chase, while Katie Oliver was sent to the front over two out in the Hor-ton Juvenile Novices Hurdle to beat Nessun Doro by six

CH	annel 4	
4.0	D 5 SUM ALLIANCE CHASE IN: 11 CHASTS	
401	115P-12 BETTY'S BOY (83) (RF) K Bulley 7-11-4	M. Filtranski
402	5-1P273 DARK NOREY (25) (9F) 8 Dow 11-11-4	
403	204-1F2 DO BEGITLY (14) M Bradetect 7-11-4	
404	F11-111 HELL OF TUILLOW (80) D Nation 7-11-4	- R Dummaniy
405	1P-1211 JOHNSTY SETASEDE (24) N Marcia 7-11-4	
404	- FEESIS LENDENPS LOTTO-COST J WAIG 7-11-4	
407	TO-SPIT MAJOR RUSSING (21) A Moore 5-11-4	F Weeds
400	173/-122 MINELLA LAD (80) A D'Boen 18-11-4	
400	F-11111 BE WILLIGAE (28) N Chance 8-11-4	
410		
411		
412		
412		Clhamba
	FORM TIPE, Mr Braffyon 10, Heldhen Lad 8, HE Of Tullow 7	
Matti	eyr 6-4 Mr Musigers, 5-1 Johanny Setexisie, 6-1 Hild Ol Tudiow, 7-1 Nebti Setry's Boy, Minelin Lud, 20-1 Piver Lopine, Partiers Overhead	ten Lati, 8-1 Major Pizzopsi. 13 romans
	A GLADIE – BETTY'S MOY: Always provinces, every charco ? out, an In Patrimo II inclined Son, Harri.	acile to quicken, bitn SI by SI.

4.40 NATIONAL BONT CHASE CHALLENGE CUP (AMATEURS) 4- 621,940 SERVINGE HORT CHARLES HOUSE HE CONTINUED TO THE SERVINGE HE CONTINUED TO THE SERVINGE HE CASE OF MEMORY THE CASE OF MEMORY THE CASE OF MEMORY THE CASE OF MEMORY THE CASE OF THE SERVINGE HE CASE OF MEMORY THE CASE OF THE SERVINGE HE CASE OF THE CA

5.15 Manage of Personal Prince COP National Cold 2s of 110th Col.225 0-32573 STORM ALERT (28) D Nicholson 10-11-10 P-30(1) SECOND SCHEDIFAL (27) (C) (D) Was A McMahim 11-13-8

TOP FORM TIPE Out & A Day S, Big Mass 7, Target S

1-1 AddSTREMET (63) J FitzGerals 5-T1-6
3-T1 ALZILLU (11) FitzGerals 5-T1-6
5-T1 ALZILLU (11) FitzGerals 5-T1-6
6-1 BOXCORONE MAN (20) J Ont 8-T1-6
5-G1 GHARTTRE (200) D Chappel 5-T1-6
5-G1 GHARTTRE (200) D Chappel 5-T1-6
5-G1 EAGLES REST (43) N Handrigon 5-T1-6
122 FOREST (100 PK (20) D Keckology 5-T1-6
ANY MAN (200) E NORTH 5-T1-6
13 BINGSTON (20) GF D NICAGENO 5-T1-6
11 BINGSTOLE (3) J GERT 5-T1-6
11 BINGSTOLE (3) J GERT 5-T1-6
61 SAXON DOUGH (44) P Hoobs 3-T1-6
61 SAXON DOUGH (44) P Hoobs 3-T1-6
61 SAXON DOUGH (44) P Hoobs 3-T1-6

● Blinkered first time: CHELTENHAM 2.15 Madison County. HUNTINGDON 2.05 Strath Kitten; 2.40 Persian Haze. NEWTON ABBOT 4.15 Ballydougan; 4.50 Biddlestone Boy.

Huntingdon

4,25 Ulury

8 09-00 FRAZERI MASH (15) A Jones 5-11-5
6 HABELTON TERRADE K Earley 7-11-5
7 (0-7 KARISE (15) J Bernett 5-11-5
8 0 MASTER HOPEPILL (18) 0 Bearing 7-11-5
9 00 MORALS (18) J Upper 5-11-5
10 0350/-9 PERSIAN HAZE (17) B MASAM 7-11-5
11 FARON REVIEWED ARONN (17) 0 Bearing 6-11-5
12 01-790 MCASPORD (12) J L HATTS 7-11-5
13 (000 BONTA BALANESKY (19) 0 Bolding 6-11-0
14 44404 COOL STEEL (8) Mrs J Brown 6-10-10
16 3 BALESPON SOUTHERED (18) J Farshon 6-10-10
Beating 11-4 Barterd Souterlyn, 9-2 Doninse Ring, 5-1 Reverend
Terrince, 10-1 Conl Seel, Fysion Mash

3.15 YESTERDAY'S LUCOMOR HANDICAP CRASE ON CLASS

(LOCK) WEEHERS' (200) 18 Barracion (17-11-10)
(0-0213 REVERLEYER (203) (29) (8F) D Geodulo 7-11-10
(0-1213 REVERLEYER (203) (29) (8F) D Geodulo 7-11-10
(185-10) REALOPE LAW (58) (CD) J White 7-11-5
(185-17) RUST BE MACHICAL (13) (19) P Brodrey 2-11-4
(1874) AREA (202) (20) S Melero 7-11-9
(1874) PRES (1984) (10) (1977) (19) B Preside 2-11-4
(1874) PRES (1984) (10) (1977) (19) B Preside 2-11-5
(1874) PRES (1984) (10) (1977) (19) B Preside 2-11-5
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4.25 THEFT HANDSCAP REPORT OF 12,443 CO TRUMEROM MARKETON PRINCIPLE SIM 27 C2,443
465F0-0 YELLOW BYRNON (19) D GYANN 11-12-0
5-PS-F00 YHR BOOLER WHETE C25) T Thomson Jones 5-11-12
F0-1050 BLLIMB (15) (CD) C Near 6-11-11
6-SPP BRINDOLEY MOUSE (18) J White 9-11-6
4-PS-D THE GOLEPHO CURATE (20) J White 9-11-6
4-PS-D THE GOLEPHO CURATE (20) J Ropes 1-11-5
4-SPP O GYANNOLEY MOUSE (18) J WHITE POPER 6-11-6
4-PS-D THE GOLEPHO CURATE (20) J Ropes 1-11-5 7 15713-F FIVE PLACE (18) birs S Smdt 8-11-3 R Outset
8 10-9025 SB000LSDOLE (47) (5) birs P Sh 11-11-2 R Shriny
9 F3-965 SB000T JAME (28) JHoyrife 9-11-6 R Shriny
10 6-3F450 DSD09M4 VALLEY (13) A Joses 11-10-13 S Covrins (3) bir 10 001-010 FLY GRAND (13) N Beholege 9-10-5 D. Beholege
12 S-060 REC DEC BOY (18) P Clothe 8-10-2 B Funion (3) VIOP FORM THE'S Ultru S, Five Fings 7, Derring Valley 5 Belling: 5-2 Five Fings. 7-2 Darring Valley 5 Belling: 5-2 Five Fings. 7-2 Darring Valley 1-10 Enter White, 5-1 Fly Quard, 10-1 Singlesole, 72-50-09 Laue, 13-1 Ultru, The Golding Counter

5.00 not somet mores exact an of 110mls (2.86) ... M Breases (?) ... Mr P Marry (... D Statepher 2-8 GOVERNOR DANNEL (12) J O'Shea 5-11-6 ... 8 KARENASTINO (11) Mrs S Strats 5-11-6 ...

(7) W Wath (7) COCCHAND LINE O Brown 9-11-8
PERFIX LARK FI Lop 6-11-9
II SALIDON RETEXES (15) N Herderson 5-11-9
II SALIDON RETEXES (15) N Herderson 5-11-9
I SHORT CHECKT BOY (11) P Felgans 5-11-3
INDIVIDUAL WORKER (123) L PICANTON 6-11-9
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Results

CHELTERHAM
2.15 (2m 110yds Mdde): 1, COLLIER
3.30 (2m 110yds Mdde): 1, Collier
3.47, G Strains (3m - 1), 1, 2, Gameral Works (2m - 1), 2, Gameral Works (

Rioga, 6 ran. 10, 10, (C Brooks) Tote, 17.20; L4.50, £1.70, Dual F. 27.50, CSF- £22.47. Tricast £108.09. CSF- £22.47. Tricast £108.09. CSF- £22.47. Tricast £108.09. CSF- £22.47. Tricast £108.09. CSF- £23.47. Tricast £108.09. CSF- £23.47. Tricast £108.09. CSF- £23.47. Tricast £108.09. CSF- £23.47. Tricast £108.09. CSF- £23.50. CS

Richard Dunwoody is 4-11 with Coral's to land the Ritz Club Trophy for the feeding jockey at the Chettenham Festival, Coral's make Chartie Swan second best at 8-2, and then go 8-1 Grathen Bradley, Warren Marston, Richard Johnston, Mich Fitzgerald.

Premiership: Chelsea 1, Manchester City 1

Clough gives City a well-earned lift

scrapped for a gation last night, catching an Italian passport. Chelsea with an FA Cup However, there is little arhangover. The Maine Road side moved up to fifth from may yet prove crucial that they have played more games than those around them.

than those around them.

Before the game, Alan Ball had reminded his players that though they had been playing much better recently they had not been winning.

Stamford Bridge was not the easiest place to start improving City's run of two victories in the last 13 league games. Chelsea had lost only twice in their previous nine league games, while acquiring a reputation for playing ing a reputation for playing the sort of football more com-

monly seen on the Continent
This, in large part, has been
facilitated by the arrival of
Gullit and Petrescu, though City will bear witness to the fact that the importation of foreigners is no passport to success. Last night their three Germans and one Georgian were joined by Giuseppe Mazzarelli, a Swiss midfielder signed on loan from FC from his sweeper position.
Zurich; he started his who swept the ball home.

first game on the bench. His arrival offers another ingredient in the foreignhas never played for Switzervital point in their land yet gains entry to Brit-fight against rele ain because he also possesses

> gument that true class players from overseas enhance the English game, and it took Gullit only 24 minutes last night to prove the point.

Picking up the ball on the left side of midfield, he strolled forward then infield, the City defence stood off while he made up his mind. City's delay proved fatal. Suddenly Gullit found himself approach to the city's delay found himself approach. denly Gullit found himself approaching the edge of the visitors' penalty area, and a split-second later he had fired a shot past the rooted Immel to give Chelsea the lead.

Not that City should have gone one behind. Rösler had fluffed a great chance seconds earlier when put through by Kinkladze. But three minutes

Kinkladze. But three minutes before half-time City's increasing threat was rewarded with an equaliser. Lomas's first cross from the right was only half-cleared, and his second sped through a crowd of players in front of goal and finally reached Clough, up

tactical reshuffle from both sides. City dropped Brightwell into the three-man back line, freeing Clough to help out in midfield. Chelsea support Hughes, who had been operating as a lone striker with limited success.

The first product of the change was a spat between Clough and Wise, angry at what he thought was a foul. While the pair argued, Gullit went on to fire in a 20-yard shot which Immel did well to push for a corner. On 13 minutes the City goalkeeper was in more unorthodox mood, meeting Hughes's 18-yard shot at the German's chest with a two-fisted punch away. Although City continued to show plenty of fight they were struggling to get anywhere near Hitchcock's goal With

some penetration down the right. One of his first contri-butions was to dispossess Hughes and leave the former Manchester United player flat on his burn. "He'll do for me," said a Sky Blue loyalist. Chelean Hichcock: Petrescu. I Lee, Clarke, Phichcock: Petrescu. I Lee, Clarke, Phiches

20 minutes to go, enter Maz-zarelli in an attempt to force



Jensen goes, **Dickov** waits

S THE Ian Wright affair continued to reverber-ate around Highbury, John Jensen slipped quietly away from the marble halls tainly played his last game for

The Dane's £1.57 million move to the club was later to become one of the deals that brought down George Graham in the bungs scandal a year ago; now the 30-year-old middleider has gone back to Brondby on loan until the end of the season with a view to a registered one goal in 138

about the future of the for Macclesfield or two other reserve striker Paul Dickov, rivals for the GM Vauxhall bury career with Bruce Rioch. It is clear that the clear-out sought by the man ager is gathering pace.

Rioch is prepared to part with as many as 10 players, though whether Wright will be allowed to join the exodus

remains to be seen.

The striker's future could be decided by Arsenal's board tomorrow, but the club's man-

request will be dealt with in due course. Ian has asked for a transfer but he signed a new four-year contract only last season and there is a lot to consider, with the manager Bruce Rioch's recommenda-tions an obvious key factor." Dickov, 23, who has had loan spells at Luton and Brighton, wants a move to en-

sure regular first-team

appearances.
The Football League has Jensen's departure was ac-companied by uncertainty opened the door to promotion

Stevenage, who failed to satisfy the League's ground

GMVC title last season but were denied promotion to the

First Division: Crystal Palace 2, Tranmere Rovers 1

Hopkin hoists Palace to third

N 87TH-MINUTE goal by David Hopkin, floated into the far corner, snatched vic-tory for Crystal Palace at the end of a scrappy game and raised Dave Bassett's team to third place.

Conference title, Kiddermin-ster and Woking. Unlike the GMVC leaders those requirements and given the necessary financial

guarantees.
Macclesfield won the tomorrow, but the club's man-aging director Ken Friar would say only: "Ian's requirements.

replays. Freedman, Palace's man of the moment with five but we need your support as important members of my goals in three games, and Hopkin shared Houghton's inyour loyalty."
Winning helps. In nine It also gave Ray Houghton a satisfying victory over John Aldridge, his opposing captain and former Oxford, Liverpool and Republic of Irematches since his arrival Pal-ace have picked up 20 points. In 21 with Sheffield United he gathered 18. The Bassett horn, after eight years at Bra-

for a month, is aware of it. This was the fourth of six

home games in 26 days. "I know it is hard to find some

clinations to play the ball about but they were frus-trated often by divots and by

man Ron Noades embraced him for his "motivation and

The pitch is showing the

Tranmere had the same horn, after eight years at Bra-mall Lane, had run out of quickly became an exchange ding surface. Palace knew wind. Two months off have of hoof, hope and head—and, that it was hopeless.

too. The first, unsurprisingly, belonged to error and opportunism. Thomas underhit a back-pass and Ndah scored acutely. Rovers' reply two minutes later belonged to gen-uine creation, between Aldridge and Nevin, Palace's dropped guard and a rocket

That explosion of incidents was largely extinguished by the break. While Rovers, through Brannan and Moore

Freedman and Houghton, who both chipped high. Hopkin forced Coyne to concede a corner and the Australian Veart, given a debut on the half-hour, went close at a corner before Hopkin eventually showed his team-mates the art of striking. Nonetheless, the fans' loyalty is going to be tested in the next two months

Clark ready to gamble

FRANK CLARK may gam-ble on Chris Bart-Williams's versatility to help Nottingham Forest in tonight's FA Cup sixth-round tie with Aston Villa at the

City Ground.

Forest's manager will probably switch the midfielder to central defence if Haaland fails a test on his groin injury. Clark has already lost Cooper through suspension. Villa's manager Brian Lit tle, having already ruled out a comeback for Johnson, may call up the former Forest winger Carr, who has made only two substitute appearinces since his £150,000 move

from Leicester in January

Birmingham City 2, Huddersfield Town 0

Barnes enough to stir Fry

Tom Evans

AUL BARNES's last goal before this match was an equaliser for was an equaliser for Stoke City in a flerce Second Division promotion tussie which prompted a full-scale pitch invasion. His only danger after clinching Birming-ham's victory last night came from his larger-than-life man-ager Barry Fry, whose touch-line jig needed plenty of

McCarthy set to elhow room. Seven points in seven days have turned Fry's side from relegation candidates to promotion possibles within a week, and their generally more skilful approach work deserved this victory.

Determined to narrow the

ponents to five points, they sank their teeth into the Terriers after only 46 seconds. when Tait's cross to the far post was met by Legg, who forced Francis into a fine

right-handed save.
Huddersfield were still trying to find their feet on a
threadhare St Andrews pitch when Paul Devlin, Fry's 50th signing — or perhaps 51st, as he arrived in a £500,000 double deal with Legg — gave Birmingham the lead. Samways's deep corner was nod-ded goalwards by Tait, and Devlin turned his defender before stabbing home from

The same Samways-Tait combination almost reaped further reward four minutes later, but this time the blond gap on their sixth-placed op- midfielder's firm header

flashed past the post. Hudderfield had their snatched an equaliser before the interval. Thornley crossed to the far post where Edwards slipped the defence and shot against the crossbar with Griemink beaten.

A magical piece of Hunt trickery forced Francis Into early second-half action, but his skill was better than his final shot. In the 61st minute Barnes showed him how to finish, receiving a pass from the ever willing Devlin and neatly past Francis and into the top right-hand corner.

Snooker

Fixtures

Soccer

Birmingham Cibys Grisminic Bast, Frain, Tait. Brear. Johnson, Hunt, Samwaya. Logg, Devin, Barnes. Huddengfald Tower Francis: Jenkins. Cowan, Bullock, Simoli, Gray, Edwards. Matest Review. Income.

Oldham 1, Sunderland 2

Rokermen's telling late Ball

lan Ross

CUNDERLAND's recent Sprogress has been so smooth and impressive that they would have anticipated a sixth consecu tive League win when they arrived at Boundary Park. They left it rather late, however, a fine header by Kevin Ball from a Martin Scott free-kick sealing the points with little more than

four minutes remaining. Derby's lead at the top of the First Division table is now reduced to a single point and Sunderland still have a game in hand. For Oldham defeat

nd safety. They will do well to survive but survive quences of relegation are frightening, bearing in mind the club's parlous fi-nancial state. Oldham did well to

emerge from the torrid opening exchanges just one goal adrift. Michael Gray's goal after 11 minutes was either a masterpiece or calamity depending on your

Having collected Russell's pass, Gray was pre-paring to bear down on goal when he spotted Oldham's

goalkeeper Gerrard sprint-ing towards him and sim-ply lifted the ball over him from distance. It was easy merely added to their swift from distance. It was easy but beautifully executed. Sunderland then squan-

win half a dozon games and yet, astonishingly, their lead was snatched away from them on the stroke of half-time when Lee Rich-ardson drilled in smartly from 18 yards.

That unexpected, rather undeserved, breakthrough lifted Oldham's spirits but did little to improve their threadbare football.

Sunderland were streets ahead in terms of ability and style and yet, for the first time for several weeks, they struggled to turn the corner.

Oldheme Athletter Gerrard: Snodin. Fleming. Redmond Makin. Halle Richardson, Hughes Gannor (Graham., Schmi), McCardy. Barlow (Borestod, 511. Seaderland: Given: Kubicki Howey, Ord., Stocker, Agnew. Ericawell. Ball. M Gray, Russell, Sowart. Reference K Breen (Liverpool).

keep old guard Mill stick by the old guard when he Championship.

names his first Republic of Ireland squad in Dublin today for the friendly with Russia at Lansdowne Road on March 27. The former Republic captain knows he must eventu-

ally inject new blood into

an ageing squad which showed alarming signs of

decline in the closing stages of Jack Charlton's 10-year reign. But McCarthy has said he will surround himself, at least in the short term. with the experience of players such as the 80-times capped Republic record-holder Paul McGrath, the 37-year-old top-scorer John

Агзепа

Aston Villa

Blackburn

Brentford

Burnley

Chelsea

Everton

Hudd, Town

Coventry City

Bolton

There may be places in the senior squad for relative newcomers such as Liam Daish, Coventry's recent signing from Birmingham, who won only two caps under Charlton but may figure in the three-centreback formation McCarthy wants eventually to use. McCarthy and his assis-

tant Ian Evans bave been Continent for established players with Irish ancestry who can be fitted into the squad for the next World Cup qualifying series, which begins on August 31 with a visit to Liechten-stein. "Finding new players

02 Sunderland

23 West Ham

29 Wimbledon

Results

27

12

10

Water# (1) 3 Wilson 26 Marsh 63

Wreathern (3) 5 Ward 8

Third Division Exeter (1) 2 Pears 22 Cooper \$6 (pen)

scouring Britain and the

FA CARLING PREWIERSHIP

First Division Orienaby (0) 3 Stakespeare 5 Groves 65 Forresier 78

SCOTTISH LEAGUE MIEDE G MC

Second Division

Third Division AUTO WINDSCRE

Rugby Union SWALED CUP: Shith rounds Cardiff in:

SWALDS COPP SIGN FORMS LANGET RES CLUB MATCHES Bristol 22. Cardiff 20. Lydney 34. Arthy 15; Waspa 12. Royal Nevy 12: Barnert D. Aberavon 22. Cancellode Tradagar v Triocrety. WRU MIDWEIK COMPETITION: Pool As Abercynon 12. Pontypool 12. HART GILBIORE POUR COUNTIES CHAMPTONISMD: Postponed: Worce & Hockey

Rugby League

I CHITIS

EVERT CUSP (Inglian Weijs, Calif): There recend (US unless stated): \$ Genf (Ger) bt J Haland-Decugls (Fr) 6-3, 7-5. K Date (Japan) bt I Neilland (Lu) 6-4, 9-0. H Tambiet (Fr) bt M J Fernander (US) 7-6. 6-4. A Costone (SA) bt 1 Spirina (Rom) 6-2, 6-1. HISWSWINERK CHAMSFRONE CUSP TOMB-MAMSFIT (Indian Wells, Calif): Mouse First resents J Swiffe (Sp) bt A Medvector (USr) 6-3, 4-5, 7-6. A Coston (Sp) bt C Mamilit (US) 8-2, 6-4; M Joyen (US) bt G Scalier (Aut) 6-3, 6-4; M Joyen (US) bt G Scalier (Forget (Fr) 6-3, 6-4; A Contain (Sp) bt P Korda (CZ) 3-4, 7-5, 6-4; A Volumn (Rom) bt M Wilardor (Swif) 6-3, 7-5; B Eurheother (Ger) bt G Flusedabil (GB) 3-8, 6-4, 6-4; C Coston (Sp) bt A O'Erion (US) 7-4, 1-6, 7-5, A Consedered (Fr) bt G State (GA) 5-3. 6-3.

Basketball

Cycling

PARES TO RICE RACE: Take stage (Vassingre-en-Limousin to Chairgnae, 172,54m): 1, L. Jaiabert (Fr) ONCE 4hr 4min 172.5km) 1. L. Jalabert (Fr) ONCE shr Amin 11sec. 2. L. Arnstrong (UB) Motorcia at 16sec 8. C. Beardman (GB) GAN exme time; 4. L. Dufaux (Switz) Festina 18. S. L. Lobiane (Fr) Polit st. 8. F Vandenhorouche (Bei) Mapel 28: 7. A Peron (II) Motorcia 51; 8. A Teinmit (Un) Lotto 52: 3. L. Brochard (Fr) Festina 54: 10, S. Heutot (Fr) GAN 85, Owerale 1. Jalabort 12 hr 2 tmin 11sec; 2. Arnstrong at 20sec; 3. Boardman 8t. 4. Dufaux 22: 5. Lebiane 9t. 6. Vanden-broucks 33, 7. Peron 63; 8. Tehmil 60; 9. Brochard 53; 10, Madouss 59.

tord C (7.0): Blackpool v Man C (7.0): Hull v Pression (7 0): Moddestrough v York (7.0): Rotherham v Burnley (7.0): Sunderland v Port Vale (7.0). Third Divisions Durtington v Wigan (8.00). Lincoln v Windam (7.0): Sconthamp v Burry (7.0). Strewsbury v Walsall (7.0): Stockport v Carlele (8.45): Chosteriteid v Doncaster (7.0). AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Divisions Boots (2.00): Necessity. First Divinion: Bristol C v OPP; No ulan; Orland Und v Igswich; South Chariton: Wimbledon v Portamout

SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL

Rugby Union

Cricket ice Hockey

Hockey REPRESENTATIVE (2.0. Portsmouth). Royal Nevy v Civil Service: Army v Bridst

Stephen Hendry was scatningly critical of the lable's thick cloth despite recoverant from a 4-3 deficit to beat Terry Murphy 5-4 in the first found of the £23,000 Thalland Open in Bangkok yesterday, writes Clive Everten

The world champion, who could easily have been overtaken by the tellow Sect, John Hightins, at the log of the provisional rankings had be lost the match, found uncharanteristic difficult in memorals.

characteristic difficulty in menoeuvring the cue-ball and with the exception of a 103-break in the lourin frame, his 36th century of the season, he lacked his normal flu-ency. "The cicili is ilive an Arminister, it's

Sport in brief

Athletics

Liz McColgan, the former world and Commonwealth Games 10,000 metres champion, has told the Scottish Athletic Federation that she's will not run for Scotland again, writes Stephen Bierley. Her decision follows the appointment of John Anderson," her former coach, as Scot-land's athletics team manager for the 1998 Commonwealth' Games. Anderson and McCol: gan were involved in a legal-wrangle after they parted

play-off game between Durham Wasps and Humber side Hawks, abandoned after fighting between the two sides in the pre-game warmup led to police arresting two Durham players last Satur-day, will be replayed tonight Leisure Centre, writes Vic Batchelder. The brawl will be dealt with during tomorrow's: British Ice Hockey Association council meeting when both clubs will be represented at a specially convened disciplinary hearing.

Badminton

Julie Bradbury is seeded toreach two semi-finals and Darren Hall is England's first singles seed for three years at the Yonex All England Championships which open today at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena, writes Richard Jago. The world's oldest tournament, it has a record entry of 375 competitors from 36-

PA CUP: Shift round: 1 Aston Ville (7 45). PA CARLING PREMIUMS V Leeds (7.45); Liverpool Aidridge and the midfielder Ray Houghton — all contemporaries in the teams Chariton took to the finals of the job," said McCarthy. Oldbern (1) 1 Richardson 43 ELIROPEAN CUP: Pinal: Taugrès Vitoria, 18. PAOK Salondia B1. MBA: Detroit 100, LA Chippers 90; Sacra-neoto 32, Vancouver 88. CarRole (0) 0 0,682 (agg: 6-4) BUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS (Millon Port Vale (1) 1 Bogis 1 ice Hockey Billiards The British Championship West Brone (3) 4 Taylor 13, 27, 79 Sneekes 16 11,636 Area final, second lett WORLD MATCHPLAY CHAMPION WORLD MATCHPLAY CHAMPION-SHIPS (Bellymenn): Second reunds & Hoginos (re) in B Bhaster (ind) who: I Williamson (Eng) bi D Alchiez (ind) 4-0; R Close (Eng) bi S Muttani (ind) who; R Dag-ley (Eng) bi M Spoormans (Bel) who; R Chapman (Eng) bi N Kothari (ind) 4-1; D Causier (Eng) bi D Joshi (ind) 4-2; D Evertes (Walse) bi A Marray (ing) 4-0; M Perrebra (Ind) bi D Cayer (Scot) 4-1, A Shandilya (Ind) bi D Elliot (MI 4-2 • Mais Wilander and Karel Novacek, who tested positive for cocaine at least year's French Open, have instructed their law-year's to sak the High Court to grant a temporary ban preventing the international female Federallon from continuing with a hearing into the allegations. The players — ranked 45 and 122 in the world — want the ITF proceedings postported until judgment has been given in their own High Court action againer the ITF. (adgr. 1-2) Teamtalk Second Division Blackpool (1) 3 Mellon 25 Bonner 59 Elila 78 The Independent News and Reports Service 8-Mars.

N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE First Disbelow: Stellmersdate Uni v Blackpool Rivra.

FEOGRAFICA: BREWERY ROKTHERM.

LEAGUE: First Divisions Bedlington Ter v

Durham C: Billingham Syn v Whickham;

Ferryalli Alb v Seaham RS; Guisborough Call 0891 33 77+ 19 Sheffleld United RED STRIPE CUP: Port of Speins Leo-ward Islande 400 (D. Joseph 118, R. Jacobs St. Chawrij 4-144) and 230 (Samaros 4-44, Dharray 4-59). Trinidad and Tobbapo 330 (R. Smith 99, M. Bodoe 65; Woekes 5-62) and 204-8 (A. Ballfram 57). Leoward Islands wor by 73 runs. Lisa Lomes, who had been made invocatite to regain the womens' singles title at the English National Table Tennis Champiowships in English starting this Saturday, has had to withdraw because of Sheffield Wed. 11 Leeds United Hetts Count Jones 32 Battersby 35 9 462 35 Southhampton 20 34 Leicester City 64 Stoke City 21 Liverpool

18 Caltic 28 Norwich City 13 Rangers

36 Man. City

24 Man, United

31 Middleshrough

Cycling

Rugby League

Paul Fitzpatrick reports on the latest round of bad publicity to hit the club who seldom put a foot wrong on the field

Police probe Wigan 'transfer'

the centre of a police inquiry into allegedly bogus transfer talks about

one of their players. Lancashire police confirmed last night that they had been handed a file by the Wigan Observer newspaper. said a spokesman for Greater

IGAN and their transfer dealings involving Leeds chief executive Alf chairman Jack Neil Cowie, their Welsh inter-Davies to write a letter con-Robinson are at national forward, and Leeds. Last month Cowie was named by the Observer as one of a number of Wigan players involved in a drinking binge in Tenerife. But Cowle was not there; he was skiing in

As a result of that story legal action against the paper is threatened, but the Ob-Manchester Police.

This follows an inquiry by the paper, which links Robinson with allegedly bogus

This follows are inquiry by the course of justice.

It claims that he asked the son's suggestion.

interest in Cowie, followed by a second letter saying that Leeds no longer wanted him because of the "hinge" allegations made by the Observer. The paper claims that Robin-son offered to share evenly

The Observer yesterday carried a letter attributed to Davies in which he expresses his "amazement" at Robin-

with Leeds any damages

awarded

firmed that he had written to Robinson, but he would not elaborate on the letter's

"It was simply to say no to an offer made to us," he said. "All I will say is that Leeds have not made any bid for Neil Cowie nor have we talked with him. We quite definitely did not make a bid for

that player." The Observer has called on Robinson, the most successful chairman in Wigan's history, to resign from the board he

Yesterday Davies con-joined 16 years ago. An an-ary they admitted they had firmed that he had written to tiques dealer, he took over failed to pass on gate money Robinson, but he would not from Maurice Lindsay, now from a World Cup game the sport's chief executive,

four years ago. Robinson said he was not prepared to make any com-ment until he had discussed the matter with the club's solicitor, Tom Fishwick.

These past three months have not been among the best for Wigan's public relations. Twice in recent weeks they have made the front page of the Wigan Observer for the

staged at Central Park in October.

As a result, part of the Regal Trophy and Stones Cen-tenary Championship was withheld by the Rugby Football League. The matter, though, was settled quickly and "amicably" and there was no suggestion of wrongdoing on Wigan's part.



rell's 20-year-old Scotland A winger, and he will play league in the summer and union in the winter. He was one of six signings announced

yesterday by Trinity.

Paul Newlove, the St Helens centre who was placed on report during Saturday's Challenge Cup semi-final at Wakefield Trinity have signed Graham Smith, Orfoul play.

Jalabert sprints to the

William Fotheringham

attack

in a stage race is always eagerly awaited after the phoney war of the openthe publicy war of the open-ing days, and yesterday's 108-mile leg to this they hilltop village suggests that the Paris-Nice "Race to the Sun" is likely to be fought out by last year's winner Laurent Jalabert of France, Britain's Chris Boardman and the

American Lance Armstrong.

Jalabert was definitely the strongest yesterday. Neither Armstrong nor Boardman was able to get close to him when he attacked a 25-strong lead-ing group at the foot of the sinuous two-mile climb to the finish line, hidden deep among the honey-coloured stone barns and sheep pastures of the Cantal.

"Jalabert put in such a sprint that he gained about 30 seconds immediately," said was nothing I could do; it was awesome. If I had tried to stay with him I would have blown my nuts off. I had to ride at

Boardman's pace was nev-ertheless sufficient to rope in Armstrong and Luc Lebland of France, world champions in 1993 and 1994 respectively and the only two riders who attempted to hold Jalabert's pace. The Wirral man even regained a few seconds to restrict his losses to 16 seconds at the finish line, where Armstrong took a slow, painful sprint for second

All three will be thinking ahead to Sunday's final time-trial in Nice, which Boardman on his current form is hot favourite to win. But the ers believe that in those flat 12% miles against the watch he can gain only about 30 seconds on Jalabert, who showed surprising time-trial ability last year when he won the Tour of Spain.

Jalabert's comment yester-day was, "One second's lead before the time-trial will be enough", but for all his bra-vado he will need a more substantial cushion to be certain of overall victory. Armstrong will be thinking along the same lines. As today is one of the few stages where either can gain time on Boardman, the Briton and his GAN team can expect to be put under

 Italy's former world champion Maurizio Fondriest has pulled out of the Tirreno-Adriatico which starts today with strained leg tendons.
Also missing will be Tony Rominger, who has respiratory problems; the Swiss world No. 2 fractured a rib in training last month but intends to lead the Manai GR tesm in the ad the Mapei GB team in the 12-day 1,200-mile Tour Du-Pont in Delaware in May.

Boxing

Abrasive Bruno sheds Mr Nice Guy

Kevin Mitchell in Las Vegas finds a touch | haviour of some of our sporting tourists, and it is to be of hubris in the court of King Frank in the last days before the big talking has to stop

apart," says Charles Steiner of the ESPN television network, "but the King of England seems secure as he readies himself for the fight of his life."

Such are the news-media cliches here, and Frank Bruno is doing nothing to upset the colonials' preconceptions. Though less than regal in his dealings with the media indeed, much of the time on Monday he was downright rude - the man who can justifiably call himself heavy weight champion of the world seems to be settling in nicely as a benign despot.

Perhaps he is listening too much to the comforting voices of those around him. but Bruno is sounding in-creasingly like a monarch who regards the challenge of Mike Tyson this Saturday night as something of a peas-

How far we have come from 1969. It was hardly conceivable after five rounds of frus-tration on the evening of February 35 that year that Bruno would return to Las Vegas seven years on as holder of

It is one of the oldest observations in boxing that a for the fight, he seemed relatively unconcerned. "It doesn't really matter than Bruno would come in at tively unconcerned. "It doesn't really matter than Bruno would be and Bruno would be a seemed relatively unconcerned. "It doesn't really matter than Bruno would be a seemed relatively unconcerned." The British betting publications of a title, and Bruno would be a seemed relatively unconcerned. "It doesn't really matter than betting publications of the oldest observations in boxing that a for the fight, he seemed relatively unconcerned. "It doesn't really matter than betting publications of the oldest observations in boxing that a for the fight, he seemed relatively unconcerned." The British betting publications of the oldest observations in boxing that a for the fight, he seemed relatively unconcerned. "It doesn't really matter than betting publications of the fight, he seemed relatively unconcerned." The British betting publications of the fight, he seemed relatively unconcerned that the best of the fight, he seemed relatively unconcerned that the best of the fight, he seemed relatively unconcerned that the best of the fight, he seemed relatively unconcerned that the best of the fight has been been dependent of the fight has been dependent on the fight has been depe and Bruno would certainly seem to be a different man now. It was hard to excuse his arrogance on Monday, howto belittle some members of the British press corps but would later not take on board the argument that his

HE British monar He was gratuitously offen-chy as we know it sive to French and German may be falling journalists, labelling them apart." says with national stereotypes, bewith national stereotypes, be-fore turning on a respected English sports writer. In a cartoon display, Bruno was full of "pip pip hooray, old chap" in responding to the man's perfectly reasonable

questions.
It was an unedifying spectacle which had all of us cringing, although it must be said that the champion himself did not seem remotely worried or embarrassed. There is a case for saying that this merely reflects his strength of mind as he pre-pares for what Steiner rightly describes as "the fight of his

All fighters withdraw to some extent close to a great fight, and any investors on the 10-1 odds against Bruno stopping Tyson inside the 12-round distance on Saturday night could have taken heart from his arrogance. He did not spar on Monday,

unlike Tyson on the previous Friday, who at least went through the motions during four desultory rounds with Jose Ribalta, but as always

in terrific shape and if I am 17% stone or 17-9 I will still be at my peak."

Tyson, meanwhile, remains dismissive of the Bruno bandwagon. There is an army of British support in Las Vegas, which might cause concern

hoped they will behave themselves on Saturday night.

"Yeah, 5,000 will be coming to root for him." Tyson said, "and 5,000 will be taking that long, depressing trip back to England with him." Yet the challenger is no-

where near as ebullient as Bruno, and true to the pattern of nearly all his fights is playing it very low-key. He does not think Bruno really believes he can beat him. Tyson, although surrounded by fistic pygmies, is confident enough of his own ability to prepare almost in isolation.

His trainer Jay Bright does not seem to have much control over him. Indeed he is largely disparaged here as a "bucket carrier". The feeling is that Tyson is running his own show.

About Bruno's boast that he will knock him out, Tyson said: "I'm sure he doesn't be cially after our last encoun-ter. I worry about everyone and I will say this about him, he is the heavyweight cham-pion of the world. I'm not ranting and raving but my actions will speak louder than

words. • "I give Bruno a clubber's chance," is the considered opinion of Lennox Lewis, who holds a stoppage win over Brune and who tried to block Bruno looked physically this fight and challenge

doesn't really matter too seems to believe him. William much," he said. "I know I am Hill have reported heavy interest in odds of 33-1 against Bruno stopping Tyson in the first round. Substantial bets have also been placed on Ty-son at 1-5, including a single wager at £50,000.

Latest odds; Hill's: 1-5 Ty-son, 10-3 Bruno. Ladbrokes: behaviour had lacked dignity. | for those familiar with the be- | 1-4 Tyson, 11-4 Bruno.



Got everything taped . . . Bruno exudes confidence for Saturday's big fight against Mike Tyson PHOTOGRAPH TOM JENKINS

Sreports that Scott Gibbs has signed registration forms with Newcastle rugby union club, said yesterday that they would block any attempt by the former Lions and Wales union international to return to his old code.

very keen on joining us." Gibbs will have a few questions to answer when he gets back from holiday in the US.

Howes said: "Scott has a contract with us and Super League for the next three Super League seasons and has received a Super League cannot do anything without our permission."

But Andrew said: "He de- land this summer.

period he will come under. am delighted at the prospect of him joining Newcastle."

Gibbs, who joined Saints in April 1994 from Swansea, may be planning to return to his old code or he may be aiming to play union in winter and St Helens insist Gibbs is their man. "Scott is going nowhere," said their chief executive David Howes. But Newcastle's director of rugby Rob Andrew claimed: "Scott is end of the initial 1996 summer." season and the start of the 1997 season will be devoted entirely to preparation for the 1997 season.

One player who will be free to play both codes is the Or-rell and Scotland Under-21 joined Wakefield Trinity yesterday. Trinity will not stand in his way if he is selected to tour New Zealand with Scot-

England set for busier schedule

alism and ensure frequent competition, writes Robert

This autumn Twickenham will stage three internationals, plus a Barbarians game against Australia, creating an unusually busy pre-Christmas period

Letional schedule is to be warm-up opponents for the increased to raise extra Five Nations. If neither of revenue to fund profession-last year's World Cup final-ENGLAND's interna- Argentina as England's tional schedule is to be warm-up opponents for the ists are available, then the guarding a night-club's doors. third international slot will in both cases appearances are probably be filled by a nation from North America or the Pacific islands.

Bath members have under which the club will be controlled by a trust that will become the norm.

The Rugby Football Union is negotiating to add either New Zealand or chairman and a chief sightest situations. South Africa to Italy and executive.

Gibbs 'signing' A new Davies proves that appearances can deceive Cided he wanted to sign Courage league registration forms to protect his interests as we don't know what qualification before that the centre bringing activities that Scott Gibbs that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the state of the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs the centre bringing activities that scott Gibbs

movie. With their cropped haircuts and uncompromising appearance the Gnoll club destroyed anything in its path in those days, and Davies was not the most popular man in town. But the hair, and the path, have since grown back and the memories have

Two throwbacks can be found in the Neath midfield, however, the centres John Funnell and Leigh Davies, who this week are both involved in internationals against France. Funnell is making his debut for Wales A against France A on Friday afternoon, and this Davies will win his fifth cap in the full international between the countries 24 hours later.

Funnell, who is 21, resembles Magwitch in Great Expectations, stubble on his and demeanour of someone guarding a night-club's doors.

They have combined as a pairing to prompt some of the most exhibitating rugby on the club scene in Wales, not just this season but for many years. Both have light hands,

ERALD DAVIES, the greatest of Wales's senior rugby and who had trials as a striker with Covenlikened the Neath players to extras in a Sam Peckinpah City, made his debut as a Sam Peckinpah City made his de City, made his debut as a teenager against Italy in Jan-uary last year, it was as-sumed that Wales had unearthed another Ray Gravell, a crash-tackling, contact-seek-ing centre in the mould of the injured player he had replaced, Gareth Thomas.

> mising in defence and takes some stopping even before he hits full stride, but he is a classical outside-centre who brings his wings into play and appreciates that a welltimed pass can create more havoc than a bullocking run. "People look at me and be-

think I am going to stick my head down and run," said Davies. "That is not my style at all. There are times when



When Davies, who is play- Leigh Davies . . . classical Deadly Companions.

which suits me perfectly. If I have the choice of attempting to go through an opponent or around him I will always choose the latter. Contact is a last resort, and things have gone reasonably well behind the scrum for Wales this championship. We have scored some slick tries but as a team we have made too many mistakes. Our record of three defeats is deceptive because we have provided most of the highlights of this championship. We just need a victory to lift confidence."

Davies recently left college to become the sixth player to take up employment as a de-velopment officer with the Welsh Rugby Union. His rise to fame had led to a rash of interest from rugby league and union clubs in England. But even though he said in the Italy programme that his ambition was to become a very rich man, he is content to remain in Wales.

"I am happy in Wales and have no desire to move. Neath is my home, the town where my friends live. Everything has gone very well for me on the rugby front this season Neath are still in the hunt for two trophies and I have made the Wales side. There is no reason to look elsewhere.

It is not likely to be long before Funnell and Davies the Wales midfield. Perhaps then Neath will at last forgive allusion. After all, the direc-tor's first film was called the



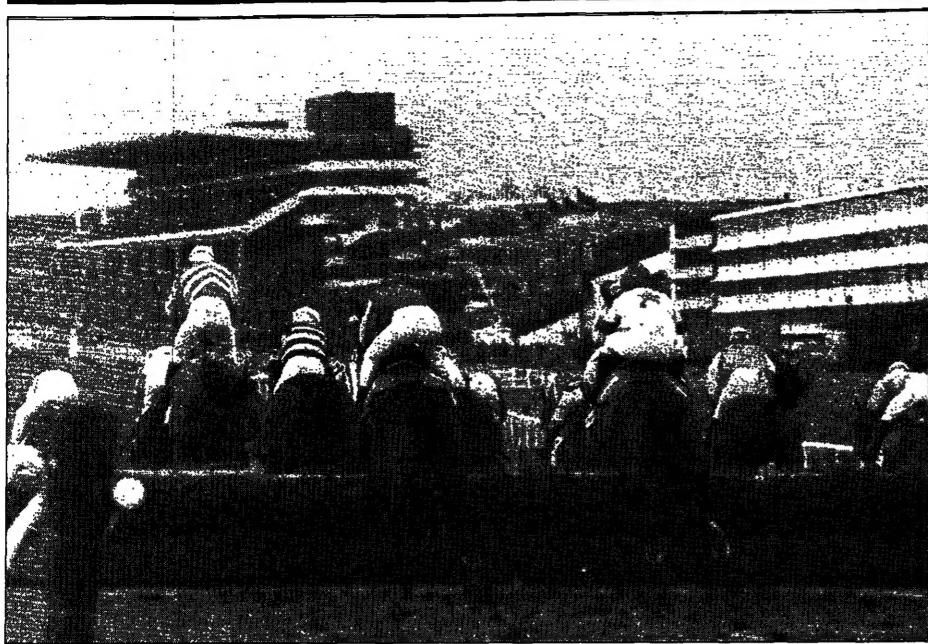
Collier digs deep for the Old firm, page 13 Arsenal's Jensen returns home, page 14

Police inquiry over Wigan transfer, page 15

League and union vie for Gibbs, page 15

SportsGuardian

OPENING RACES OF CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL DELIGHT THE BOOKMAKERS



born, with the failures of Dan-

might have been far worse. Early in the morning strong

striped canvas roof off Guin-ness Village and the punters looked likely to be without their favourite Liffey Liquor

"At one stage I thought the

whole lot was coming down and I would have to tell a few

thousand Irishmen they

couldn't have any Guinness."
On a bitterly cold day, when the racing silks in front

of the white hills looked rather like a Stubbs superim-

posed on a Bruegel, the Guin-

ness was important.

for the day.

Collier Bay seizes the day

Paul Weaver sees Graham Bradley enjoy a victory from which dreams are made

Cheltenham's snowy hills yesterday as Graham home Collier Bay to win the

stroyed yesterday at the Cheltenham Festi-

val, two belonging to the

Draborgie and Mack The

trainer Martin Pipe and the owner Darren Mercer,

writes Ken Oliver.

weekend and - until the rain fell on this Michael Fish play-ground of a racecourse — was and confound the predictions of an Anglo-Irish rumble between last year's winner, Alderbrook, and the romantics' stuff of fiction for a jockey who had lost the chance to ride Alderbrook when he overslept last month.

the Guinness Arkle Chase

until yesterday morning. The mare, who had won her

previous two races since coming to England from

Collier Bay, a small winner ante-post and a better winner yesterday, brought smiles from the bookmakers but nothing so big as the grin that filled the normally crumpled, lugubrious features of the normals transfer the normals. popular trainer Jim Old.

First day claims four horses Draborgie, the subject of must be the saddest after-an injury scare last week, was a doubtful runner for Words cannot express the noon of my training career. Words cannot express the sadness we all feel. If

they can come back to fight another day.

"This must be the hardest game in the world. It is absolutely shattering to lose two grand however. two grand horses on the same day."

Alderbrook, the 10–11 whose first Cheltenham Festifavourite, was second, 2½ val win this was.

I just watched a dream unroic Danoli, whose career apfold," he said. "This has alloft by the said. "This has alloft by the said." This has alloft by the said of ups and downs.

I just watched a dream unroic Danoli, whose career appointment of the said. "This has alloft by the said." This has alloft by the said of ups and downs.

roic Danoli, whose career appeared to be over 11 months ways been the race I wanted ago when he fractured his to win above all others. With HUSH fell over choice, Danoli Collier Bay, a sgo when he fractured his to win above all others. With brook for a run four weeks useful enough hurdler, came near-fore fetlock, finished snowy hills yester in at 9-1 but was 16-1 at the fourth. Gold Cup is a dream factory and the Grand National is a

"I was thrilled when I can the rain come down because I knew it would suit him. But have had to be patient with him. He had a virus a couple of years ago and another last year. He was not at his best in Leopardstown. He had a horrible journey over there and there was 101b of improve-

ment in him this time. And he is such a relentless galloper.
"I have always been a big fan of Brad. I brought him south after things started to

go wrong with the Dickin-sons. He has the best alarm clock in the business."

That was something of an in-joke — but a good one. Bradley, whose seventh Chel-tenham win this was, had a chance of riding Alderbrook but when invited to take him for a gallop he overslept. "I saw the rain and snow bethought, 'That's it. I've cause I knew it would suit

can't repeat when I went past Mysilv." Jamie Osborne had passed over the chance to ride Collier Bay. If Irish cheers were still-

"I was due to take Alder-brook for a run four weeks birthday party and got back at about 1.30am. I was pretty drunk, to be honest, but I thought I'd be there easily for

"My girlfriend, Amanda Wilson, got up and went to work at 7.30. She set the alarm, an electric one, and there was a power cut and I didn't wake up until 10.20. can sleep a bit.

"I rang Kim Bailey and said I would be there in 10 minutes but he said, "Don't worry". but he said, Don't worry'.
The schooling session had already happened. It was a
nightmare, and very embarrassing. I made Southern
Electric send me a telegram
saying when the power cut
was. I felt very unlucky to
lose the chance to ride Alderbrook but I must thank Southbrook but I must thank Southern Electric now.

"Collier Bay travelled very well, I was delighted when I

The Red giant who was left to walk alone



/incent Hanna

people is that so many others claim to have known them. Casual encounters become lifelong and embellished. We bask in their reflected light. Try it ometime, in football circles with the name of Bill Shankly. He died 14 years ago, and is commemorated in a new

Shankly epitomised a club, a city and an era, and everyone has a story about him. Some people say football is a matter of life and death . . . fin-

Shankly was a great man. With Matt Busby and Jock Stein he built the foundations of the modern professional game. Unlike Busby and Stein he was honoured neither as he deserved nor as he wished. And he was unable to demand

Shankly knew that football was not just entertainment but the cement that bonds players, fans into a commu-nity. If he despised the effete and the amateur, it was be-cause he was deadly serious about what the game meant to working men. He was born in Glenbuck, in

the Ayrshire coalfield, where football provided relief, and occasionally escape, from coal-dust and miner's lung. It helped Shankly the socialist get back at those people who ran the game — and life —

from "upstairs". I met him half a dozen times in the Seventies. He humoured me, a bit, because I also wrote about trade unions. He once grilled me for half an hour about a car dispute at ere Port, "Why can't they learn how to fight for themselves?" he said fiercely.

AM glad that he did not see his game dominated by marketing men, super-stores and TV-arranged fixtures. For Shanks, the team was the focus of a community Civic pride, as Dave Bowler argues, was never regarded as an eccentric attachment to a buried past. Shanks knitted the city around his club. Think of Shankly and you hear the echo of J B Priestley: To say that those men paid their shillings to watch 22 men kick a ball, is to say that a

Hamlet is so much paper and ink. For a shilling Shankly offered conflict and art.

read. He is a former accountant who once wrote pop biog-raphies. He never met Shank-ly. His style is that of an earnest research student eager to display his sources what it was like to be thereeither as player, manager or fan. Although I did like the description of Shanks's idea of a good meal: huge chops

boiled in barley, or poached eggs by the dozen. But it's worth reading that part dealing with Shankly's retirement in 1974. There Bowler's experience of board-room relationships becomes

I remember being puzzled back then. Shanks posed for photos "gardening" at home, holding a pair of shears, in immaculate blazer, flannels and shiny shoes. But Hugh McIlvanney described his sense of cruel disappointment his bitterness at the way he had been treated. How he had always done things without any help from those people". Those people again.

AVING poked about a bit myself. I believe that Shankly decided to quit largely be-cause his wife Nessie had asked him to. Some directors asked him to. Some directors tried hard to persuade him to stay on as general manager but abruptly and intemper-ately he said no. Later he regretted his decision and kept turning up at Melwood, the club's training ground.

Bob Paisley's instant suc-cess as inheritor of the Shankly team made things worse. Shanks was consigned to the past. Instead of living out his days in honour, like his friend Matt Busby, he remained an outsider, revered in the city, largely unrecognised by the club he had made great again His character made it impossible for him to mend fences. In his autobiography he wrote: "It would have been a nour to have been made a director . . . but I don't go round saying I would like to be this and that; that's

begging, and I'm not a beggar."
"The privilege of the great." said Jean Giraudoux, "Is to see catastrophes from a terrace." Had he known Bill Shankly he might have added,

even their own". After his death, in 1981, the directors erected the Shankly Gates. Many in Liverpool think they should have renamed Anfield, So do I. * Shanks, the authorised biography of Bill Shankly, by Dave Bowler (Orion, 16.99).

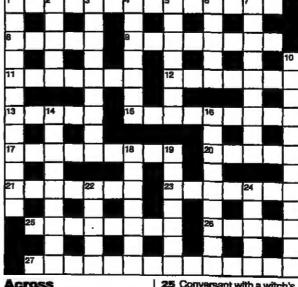
Knife were both put down after shattering pasterns. The other two were Killinny Cross, who broke his neck, and No When To Run. The other two were killinny Cross, who broke his neck, and No When To Run. The champion of th Mack The Knife, a 33-1 chance, suffered his fatal injury in the Champion Burdle. Pipe said: "This who injured a shoulder.

The original paper **AVERAGE 50 LEAVES**

The first and still the best.

Guardian Crossword No 20,599

Set by Araucaria



Across

1 Weep about it not opening the gizzard for pork pies, bugs, etc (6-8) 8 Boast from last month (5)

- 9 1 down's past love in a pat (8) 11 Sucks to supplier of grass (7) 12 Round object containing salt
- and resembling an eye (7) 13 Backer of one emperor and worshipper of another (5) 15 Princess upset having lost

article with long thin

- sections (9) 17 Identity in some respects, some in flower on mountain
- 20 1 down's opposite
- advantageously placed (3,2) 21 Landlords' characters of which 1 down was a man (7)
- 23 Wearing long pants, he

- 25 Conversant with a witch's cat, say (8) 26 1 down's gress (5)
- 27 Base character of French officer on English class head (14) Down
- 1 Revolutionary rising womes idle characters that returned Benn (12)
- 2 Horseplay (5) 3 Approve horse among deer, condescending custom (9)
- 4 Bent like a bishop? (7) 5 A disc that resounds around a railway for years (3-4) 6 Fish round river for money (5)
- 7 Singular little 21, gold, most of it on the shoulder (9) 10 Exchange blows with some
- deputies in blocks (5,7) 14 Butterfingers? Wrong tack coming into coast (9)

EATER PERSEVERE
A E C E E R V T
ADVENTURESTORY

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Solution temperature

Solution tomorrow

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